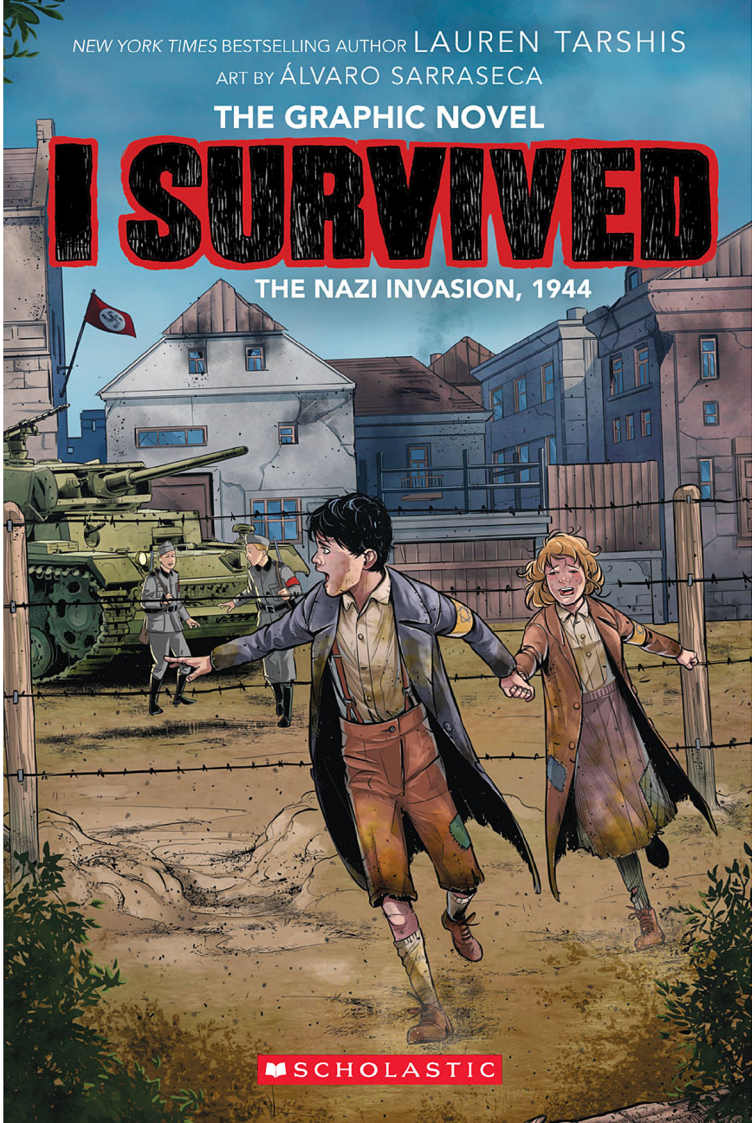
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR LAUREN TARSHIS
ART BY ÁLVARO SARRASECA
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL
I SURVIVED
THE NAZI INVASION, 1944
SCHOLASTIC

I SURVIVED

THE NAZI INVASION, 1944

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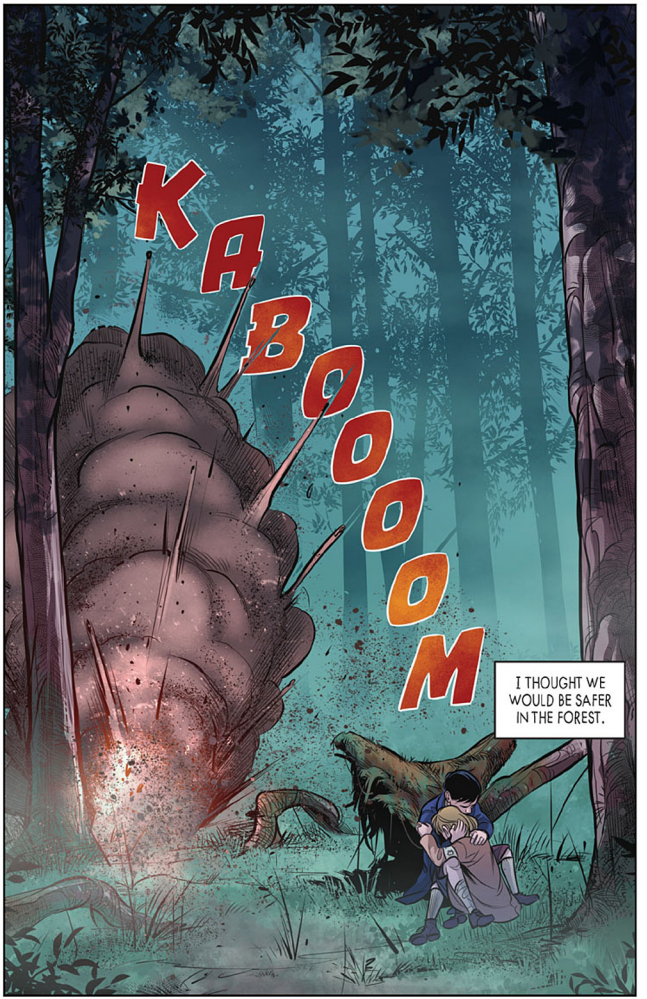
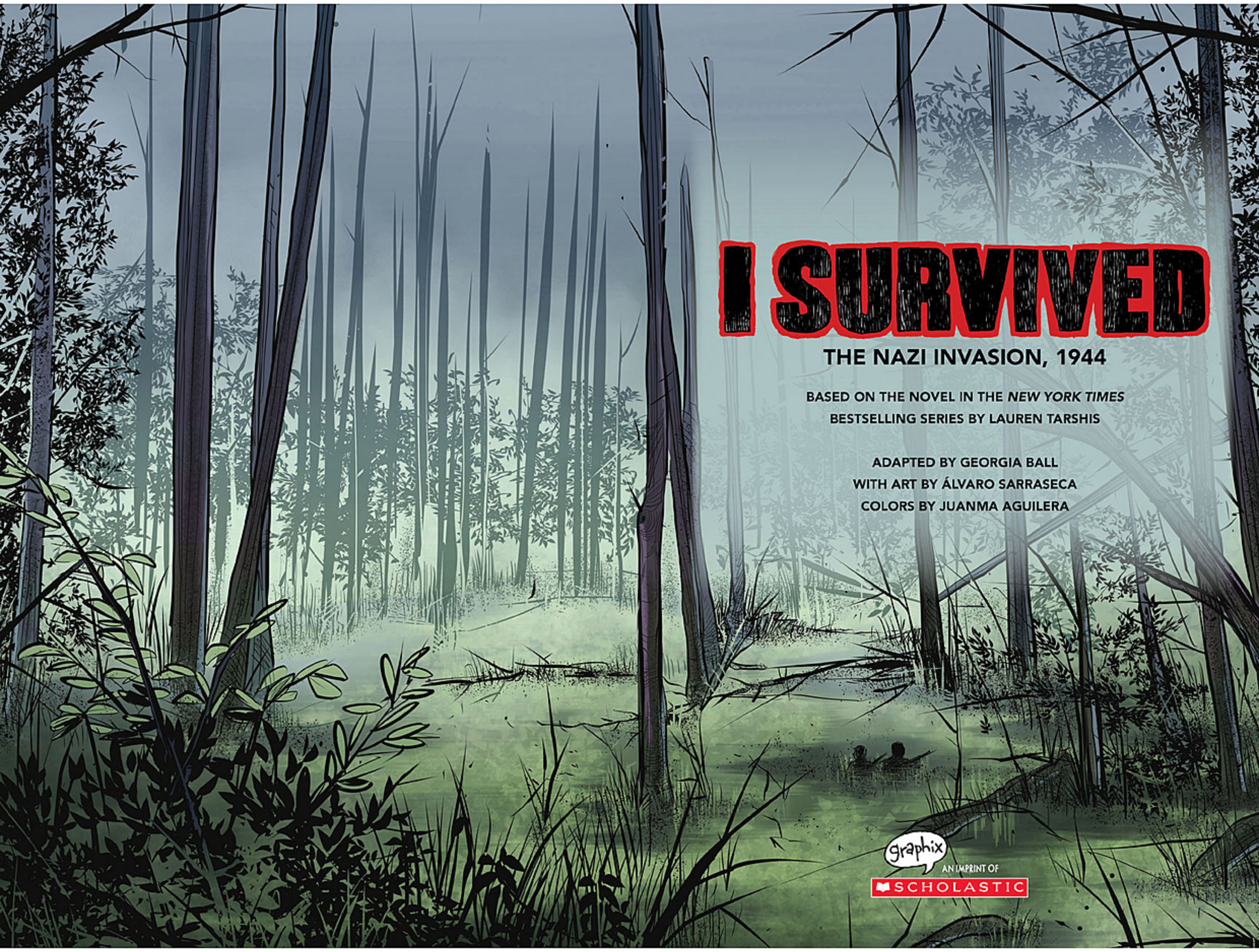
THURSDAY,
AUGUST 10, 1944
WHIPRRRR
Loda Forest,
Eastern Poland


KABOOOOOM
I THOUGHT WE WOULD BE SAFER IN THE FOREST.

WHIR RRR
WE CAN HEAR THE NAZI PLANES ABOVE US.
WHIRRRRRRRRR
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
RATTATA AT
SOON, SOLDIERS WILL SEARCH THE FOREST FOR SURVIVORS.
IF THEY FIND US, THEY WILL SHOOT US ON SIGHT.
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO REACH THE SWAMP.
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER—

KABOOOOM

AM I ALIVE?
I'M ALIVE—
BUT ALONE . . .
THEN THE WORLD
COMES CRASHING
DOWN.
CRACKLE
CRACK
CRACK


I SURVIVED
THE NAZI INVASION, 1944
BASED ON THE NOVEL IN THE *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLING SERIES BY LAUREN TARSHIS
ADAPTED BY GEORGIA BALL
WITH ART BY ÁLVARO SARRASECA
COLORS BY JUANMA AGUILERA
graphix
AN IMPRINT OF
SCHOLASTIC

Two days earlier...
The Jewish ghetto
in the town of
Esties, Poland

WE'RE OUT OF MONEY.

WE HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE LAST NIGHT'S WATERY POTATO SOUP.

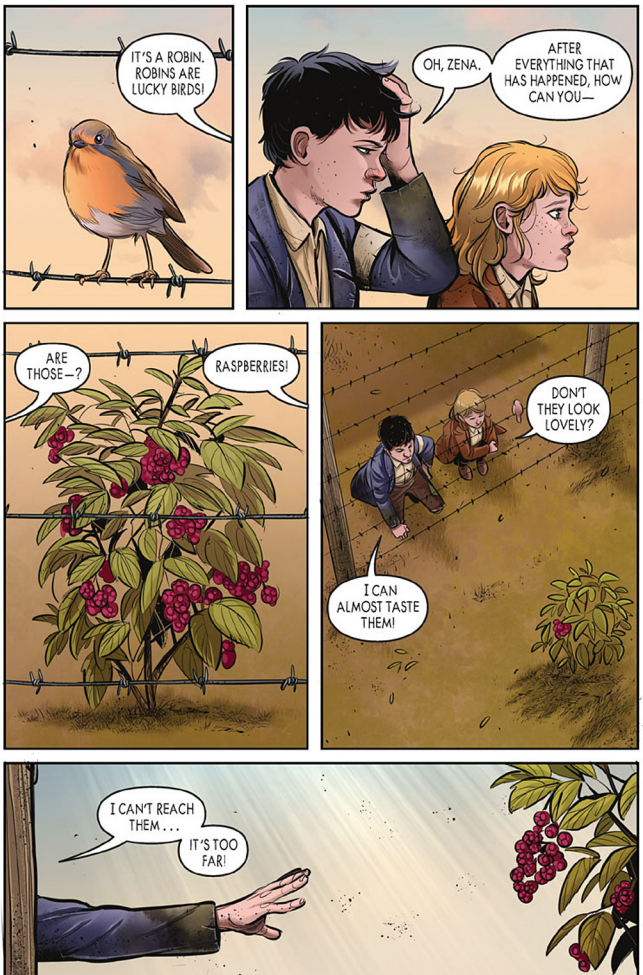
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

NAZI SOLDIERS!
I WANT TO CURSE AND SPIT ON THEM—
THEY'RE THE REASON WE'RE HERE IN THIS HORRIBLE PLACE.
THEY'RE THE REASON WE MUST LIVE LIKE THIS.
THEY TAKE THEIR ORDERS FROM GERMANY'S LEADER, ADOLF HITLER.

HITLER STARTED A TERRIBLE WAR.
HE SENT HIS ARMIES TO INVADE COUNTRIES ALL OVER EUROPE.
THEY CAME TO POLAND A FEW YEARS AGO. THEY MARCHED INTO OUR TOWN OF ESTIES WITH THEIR TANKS, THEIR MACHINE GUNS—
—AND THEIR HATRED FOR JEWISH PEOPLE LIKE US.

THE NAZIS WERE NASTY TO US RIGHT AWAY.
ONE NIGHT WE WENT TO SYNAGOGUE WITH PAPA.
TWO SOLDIERS CURSED AND SPAT ON US.
BUT THEY DIDN'T STOP WITH INSULTS. A WEEK LATER, THEY BURNED DOWN THE SYNAGOGUE.
THEY RIPPED APART THE SACRED TORAH . . .
AND SET FIRE TO PAPA'S ELECTRICAL SHOP.
ELEKTRYK
ZELKIE NAPRAWY
EKTRYCZNE
MIEROSŁAWSKIEGO
SUTERYNE
TWO MONTHS AFTER THAT, THEY MOVED US TO THIS TINY NEIGHBORHOOD ON THE EDGE OF TOWN—THE GHETTO.
THE BUILDINGS ARE CRUMBLING AND WE LIVE ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER.

GUARDS PATROL THE FENCE. NO ONE CAN LEAVE.
DR. LATHAM, WHO TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF MAMA BEFORE SHE DIED, DARED TO LOOK A SOLDIER IN THE EYE ONCE.
THEY BEAT HIM IN THE STREET.
MAX...
LOOK!


IT'S A ROBIN. ROBINS ARE LUCKY BIRDS!
OH, ZENA.
AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED, HOW CAN YOU—
ARE THOSE—?
RASPBERRIES!
DON'T THEY LOOK LOVELY?
I CAN ALMOST TASTE THEM!
I CAN'T REACH THEM . . .
IT'S TOO FAR!

I DON'T SEE ANY GUARDS . . .
MAYBE I CAN SLIP UNDER THE FENCE . . .
MAX, DON'T! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU TRY TO LEAVE THE GHETTO.
I'M NOT LEAVING.
I'LL BE QUICK, I PROMISE!
SOME TO EAT NOW, AND SOME TO TRADE FOR POTATOES.
MAX!

WHACK
MARSCH!
I DON'T SPEAK GERMAN, BUT I KNOW THAT WORD—IT'S ONE OF THE SOLDIERS' FAVORITES. *MARCH.*
MARSCH!
MARSCH!

HE'S MARCHING ME TO THE POLICE STATION.
NO ONE COMES BACK FROM THERE.
THE NAZI FLAG FLIES OVER IT NOW. I CAN SEE IT IN THE DISTANCE.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ZENA WHEN I'M GONE?
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

ZENA!
SHE WAS CRAZY TO FOLLOW US—
—BUT I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR HER.
ACHTUNG!
NO!
OOF

WHA-A-A-A-A...

=UMPH=

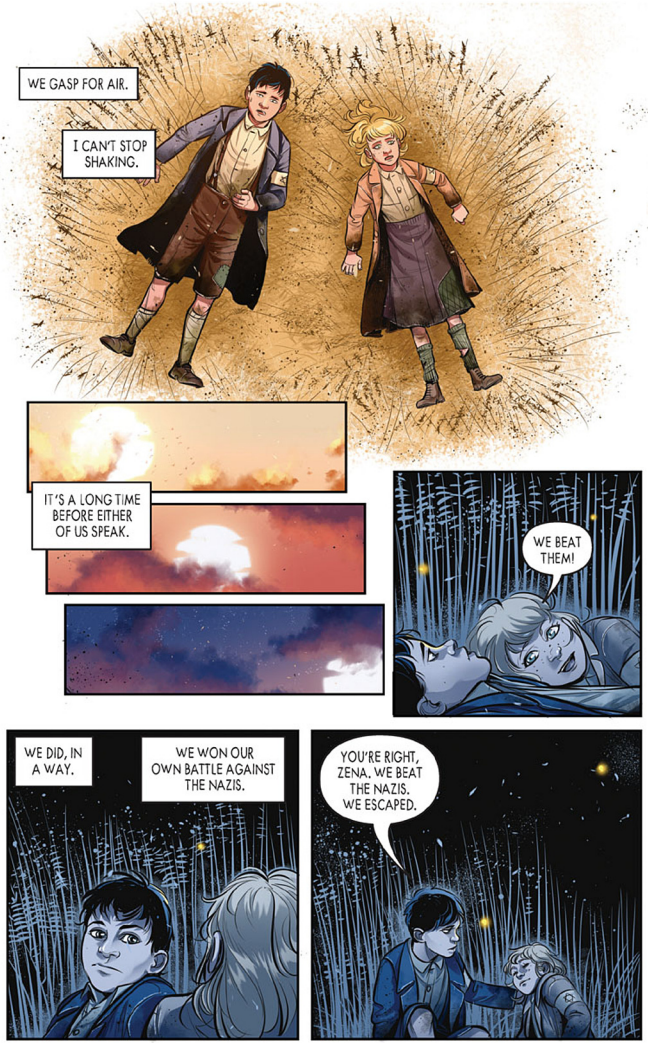
BANG

AIIIIEEEE
HE SHOT HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN RIFLE!

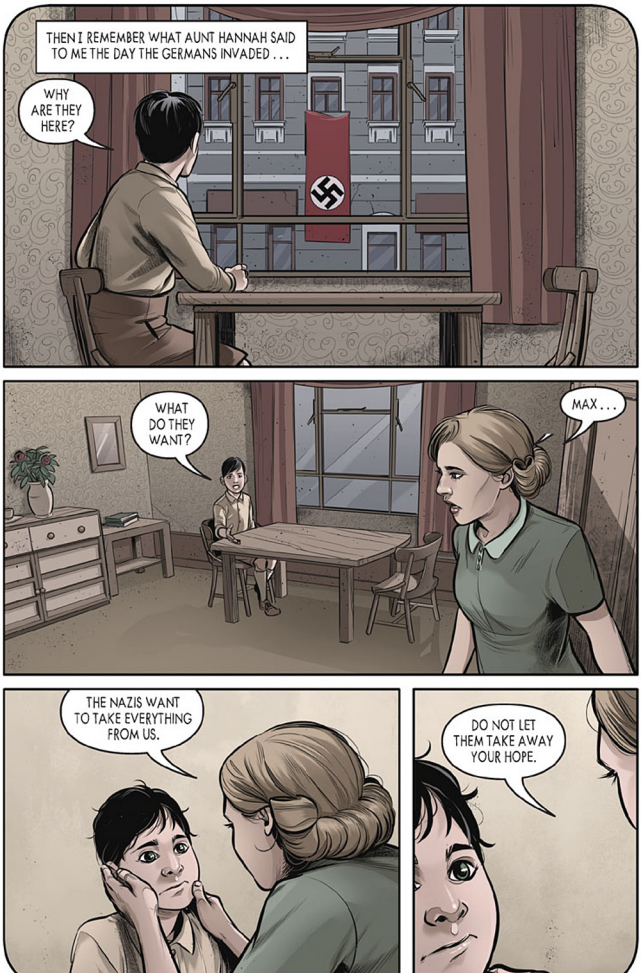
DAS WAR DUMM...
THAT WAS STUPID...
MAX, COME ON!
GET BACK HERE!
"GET BACK HERE NOW!!"

WHERE WILL WE GO?
I DON'T KNOW.
FOR NOW, ALL WE CAN DO . . .
IS RUN.

MAX, WAIT...
I NEED TO REST.
UP THERE.
"WE CAN HIDE IN THAT WHEAT FIELD."

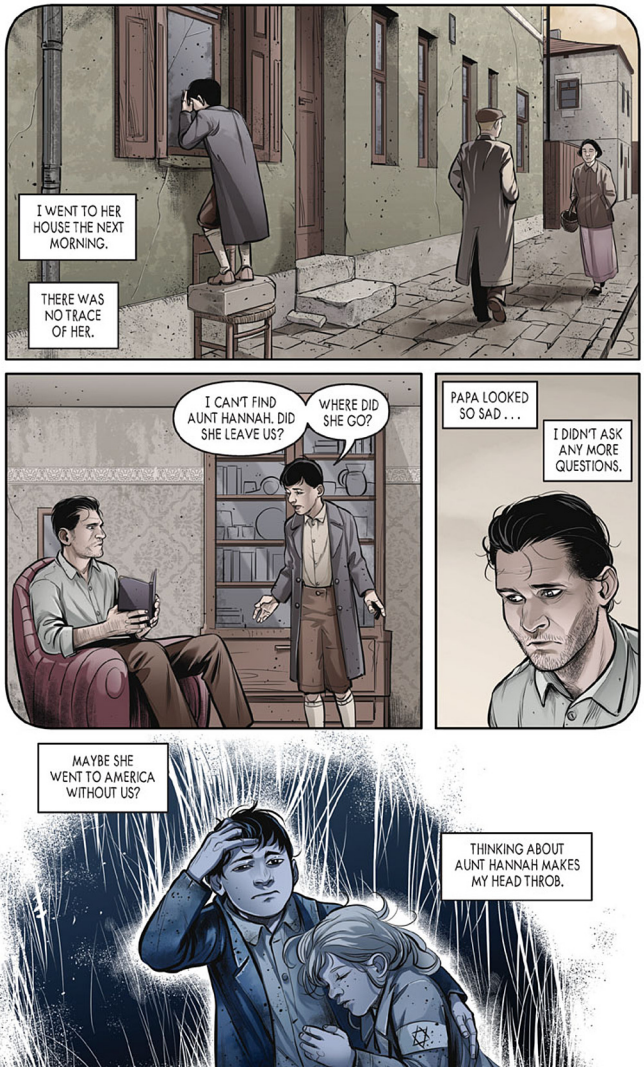

WE GASP FOR AIR.
I CAN'T STOP SHAKING.
IT'S A LONG TIME BEFORE EITHER OF US SPEAK.
WE BEAT THEM!
WE DID, IN A WAY.
WE WON OUR OWN BATTLE AGAINST THE NAZIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, ZENA. WE BEAT THE NAZIS. WE ESCAPED.

I NEED TO CLOSE MY EYES . . .
JUST FOR A MINUTE.
SECONDS LATER, ZENA IS FAST ASLEEP.
SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP WATCH.
I NEED TO STAY ALERT.
BUT MY MIND IS DRIFTING . . .
WHERE WILL WE GO FROM HERE?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?


THEN I REMEMBER WHAT AUNT HANNAH SAID TO ME THE DAY THE GERMANS INVADED . . .
WHY ARE THEY HERE?
WHAT DO THEY WANT?
MAX . . .
THE NAZIS WANT TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM US.
DO NOT LET THEM TAKE AWAY YOUR HOPE.

I REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I KNEW SHE WAS SAFE . . .
IT WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE WE WERE MOVED TO THE GHETTO.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE . . .
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN . . .
YOU *MUST* LISTEN!
WE ALL MUST GO.
HANNAH, WHERE CAN WE GO? EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS IN ESTIES.
WHO WOULD TAKE US IN?
YOU MUST BE SENSIBLE . . .
I *AM* BEING SENSIBLE . . .
I'M GOING TONIGHT.

AUNT HANNAH IS PAPA'S SISTER. SHE'S NINETEEN.
SHE'S MORE LIKE A FRIEND THAN A FUSSY OLD AUNT.
PEOPLE IN TOWN GOSSIPED ABOUT HANNAH.
THEY SAID SHE WAS WILD.
THEY SAID SHE CARED MORE ABOUT BOOKS THAN FINDING A HUSBAND.
BIBLIOTEKA
BUT I KNEW THAT SHE WAS SAVING HER MONEY TO GO TO AMERICA.
WE'LL GO THERE TOGETHER.
WE'LL VISIT OUR COUSIN SAUL IN NEW YORK CITY.
IT WILL BE AN ADVENTURE!
WHERE IS SHE NOW?
IS SHE EVEN STILL ALIVE?


I WENT TO HER HOUSE THE NEXT MORNING.
THERE WAS NO TRACE OF HER.
I CAN'T FIND AUNT HANNAH. DID SHE LEAVE US?
WHERE DID SHE GO?
PAPA LOOKED SO SAD . . .
I DIDN'T ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS.
MAYBE SHE WENT TO AMERICA WITHOUT US?
THINKING ABOUT AUNT HANNAH MAKES MY HEAD THROB.

BUT THE WORST WAS YET TO COME.
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THEY TOOK PAPA AND THE OTHER MEN.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THAT NIGHT.
BUT THERE ARE RUMORS . . .
LOCKED TRAINS THAT TAKE JEWISH PEOPLE TO PRISON CAMPS. GUNSHOTS ECHOING IN THE HILLS . . .

WAKE UP.
TIME TO GO.
GET UP NOW.

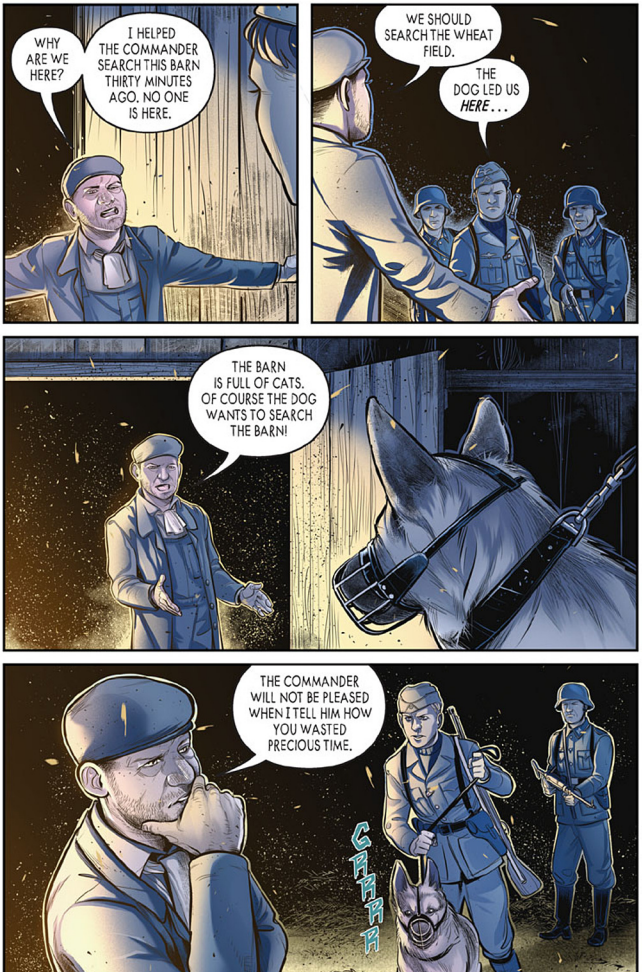
WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHO ARE YOU?
NOW, BOY . . .
THE SOLDIERS HAVE ALREADY SEARCHED THE FARM. MORE ARE COMING.
WE MUST MOVE.
HE WANTS TO HELP US!
THIS WAY!

BRRRRMMM
WHAT'S THAT?
SOUNDS LIKE A TRUCK . . .
QUICKLY!
YOU CAN HIDE IN THE BARN, THEY'VE ALREADY SEARCHED IT.
KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN!

"ARE THEY LOOKING FOR US?"
"NO . . ."
THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR THE PEOPLE WHO BLEW UP A NAZI TRAIN EARLIER THIS EVENING.
COULD THAT BE TRUE?
AND THE PEOPLE WHO DID IT GOT AWAY?

"GO UP INTO THE HAYLOFT. MOVE AS FAR BACK AS YOU CAN, CLOSE TO THE WALL.
"COVER YOURSELVES UP WITH HAY.
"DO NOT MOVE , NO MATTER WHAT."
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
WE KNOW THE OLD FARMER IS RISKING EVERYTHING TO HELP US.
ANYONE CAUGHT HIDING JEWISH PEOPLE IS SHOT.
I WANT TO THANK HIM, BUT I KNOW NOW IS NOT THE TIME.
"LOS! DORTHIN!
"INTO THE BARN!"

BANG
I CAN SEE THEM NOW.
THREE SOLDIERS—
—AND A DOG.
GRRRR


WHY ARE WE HERE?
I HELPED THE COMMANDER SEARCH THIS BARN THIRTY MINUTES AGO. NO ONE IS HERE.
WE SHOULD SEARCH THE WHEAT FIELD.
THE DOG LED US *HERE...*
THE BARN IS FULL OF CATS. OF COURSE THE DOG WANTS TO SEARCH THE BARN!
THE COMMANDER WILL NOT BE PLEASED WHEN I TELL HIM HOW YOU WASTED PRECIOUS TIME.
GRRRR

STILLE!
WHIMPER
WE WILL FIND THE FILTHY JEWS WHO DESTROYED OUR TRAIN—
—AND MAKE THEM PAY!
NOT IN THIS BARN, YOU WON'T.
THEY WILL ESCAPE BECAUSE OF YOU!
ALL RIGHT.
TO THE FIELDS!

THE SOUNDS OUTSIDE CONFUSE ME.
BRRRRMMM
I CAN'T TELL IF PEOPLE ARE COMING OR GOING.
VOICES ECHO FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE FIELD.
KOMME!
THE FIELD WE WERE IN ONLY MINUTES AGO.
I FEEL LIKE I WILL BE CRUSHED BY MY OWN FEAR.
I DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH TIME PASSES . . .
BUT I ACHE FROM STAYING SO STILL.

FINALLY...
CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
THEY'RE GONE.
WAIT HERE.
SCRATCH

THUK
THE PLANK CLATTERS ON THE FLOOR . . .
. . . AND THREE MEN STEP OUT!

JABLONSKI! YOU ARE OUR *ANGEL.*
IT'S YOU THREE WHO ARE THE HEROES.
THAT TRAIN WAS CARRYING MORE WEAPONS THAN WE THOUGHT. THE MISSION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS.
THESE ARE THE MEN WHO BLEW UP THE TRAIN!
WHO ARE THEY?
I'M NOT SURE . . .
BUT I THINK THEY ARE THE GOOD GUYS.

≥GASP≤
≥MAX≤
≥ZENA≤
≥AUNT HANNAH≤
SHE *DIDN'T* GO TO AMERICA WITHOUT US!

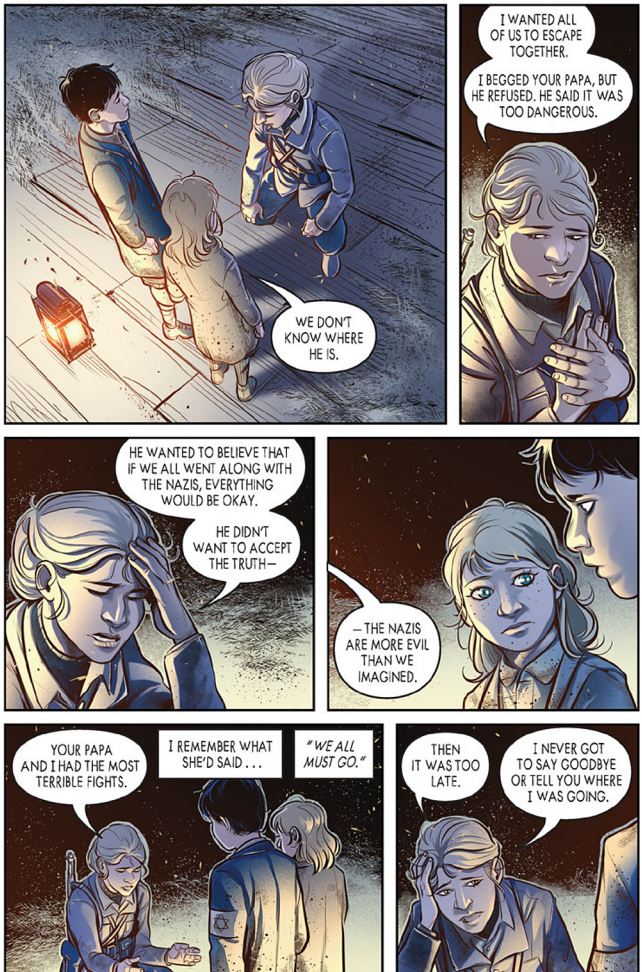
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?
WE RAN AWAY FROM THE GHETTO.
WE HAD TO! THEY WERE GOING TO SEND MAX AWAY.

WE HID IN THE WHEAT FIELD. THEN THE SOLDIERS CAME—
BUT MR. JABLONSKI SAVED US!

WHERE IS YOUR PAPA?

THE NAZIS TOOK HIM AWAY.

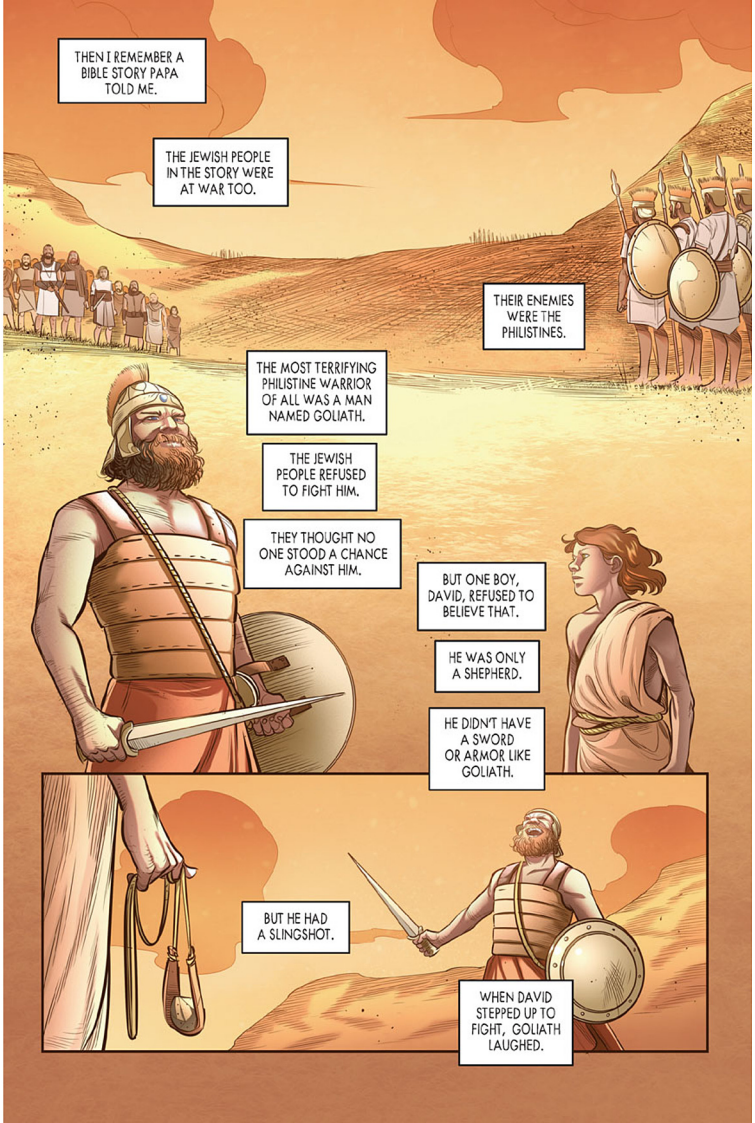
TWO MONTHS AGO.

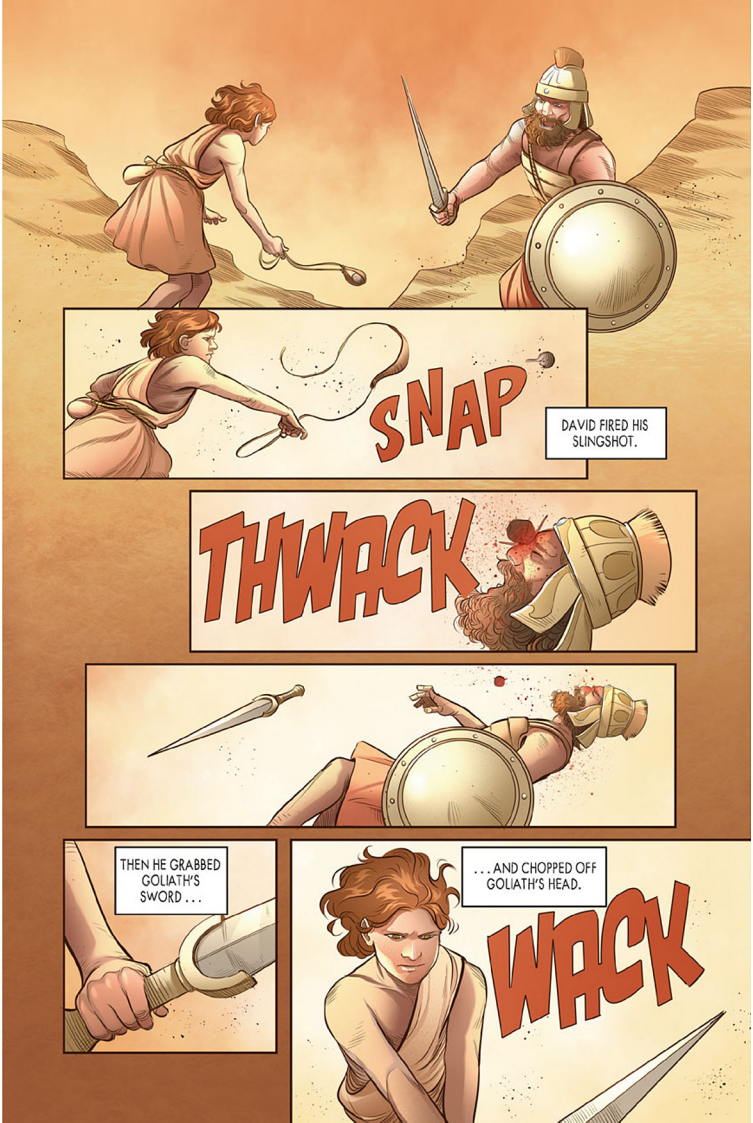

WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS.
I WANTED ALL OF US TO ESCAPE TOGETHER.
I BEGGED YOUR PAPA, BUT HE REFUSED. HE SAID IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS.
HE WANTED TO BELIEVE THAT IF WE ALL WENT ALONG WITH THE NAZIS, EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY.
HE DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH—
—THE NAZIS ARE MORE EVIL THAN WE IMAGINED.
YOUR PAPA AND I HAD THE MOST TERRIBLE FIGHTS.
I REMEMBER WHAT SHE'D SAID . . .
"WE ALL MUST GO."
THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.
I NEVER GOT TO SAY GOODBYE OR TELL YOU WHERE I WAS GOING.

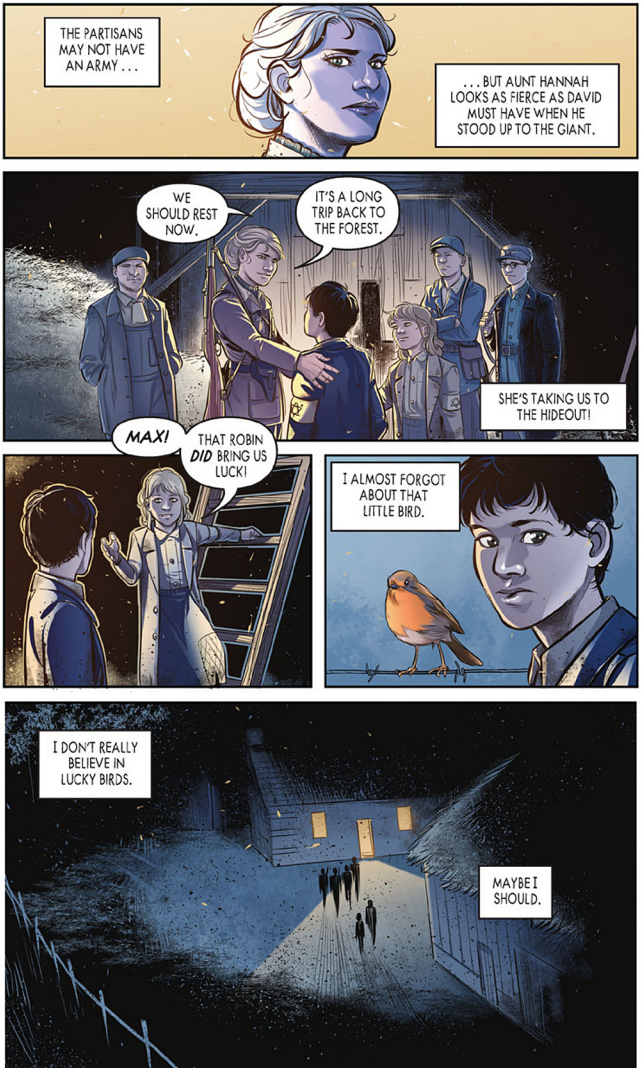
WHERE DID YOU GO?
TO THE FOREST!
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF JEWISH PEOPLE HIDING IN THE FOREST AND FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE NAZIS.
I WENT TO JOIN THEM.
YOU'RE A SOLDIER?
WE'RE PARTISANS.

NO UNIFORMS OR SHINY WEAPONS FOR US.
WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE IN A REAL BATTLE.
WE WORK IN SMALL GROUPS AND ATTACK THE NAZIS BY SURPRISE.
WE BURN DOWN THE FACTORIES THAT MAKE GERMAN UNIFORMS AND AMBUSH TROOPS AT NIGHT.
WE ALSO BLOW UP TRAINS.
THERE ARE MANY MORE OF US HIDING IN THE WOODS ALL OVER POLAND.

"OUR HIDEOUT IS DEEP IN LODA FOREST FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF HERE."
OUR GROUP HAS TWENTY-FOUR FIGHTERS. MOST ARE YOUNG MEN LIKE LEV AND MARTIN, BUT FIVE OF US ARE WOMEN.
AUNT HANNAH HAS CHANGED, AND IT ISN'T JUST HER CLOTHES.
SHE ISN'T A CAREFREE TEENAGER FROM ESTIES ANYMORE.
BUT HOW CAN A LITTLE BAND OF FIGHTERS TAKE ON THE GERMAN ARMY?
HITLER HAS MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS!


THEN I REMEMBER A BIBLE STORY PAPA TOLD ME.
THE JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE STORY WERE AT WAR TOO.
THEIR ENEMIES WERE THE PHILISTINES.
THE MOST TERRIFYING PHILISTINE WARRIOR OF ALL WAS A MAN NAMED GOLIATH.
THE JEWISH PEOPLE REFUSED TO FIGHT HIM.
THEY THOUGHT NO ONE STOOD A CHANCE AGAINST HIM.
BUT ONE BOY, DAVID, REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT.
HE WAS ONLY A SHEPHERD.
HE DIDN'T HAVE A SWORD OR ARMOR LIKE GOLIATH.
BUT HE HAD A SLINGSHOT.
WHEN DAVID STEPPED UP TO FIGHT, GOLIATH LAUGHED.

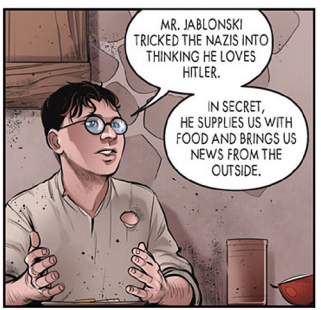

SNAP
DAVID FIRED HIS SLINGSHOT.
THWACK
THEN HE GRABBED GOLIATH'S SWORD . . .
. . . AND CHOPPED OFF GOLIATH'S HEAD.
WACK


THE PARTISANS MAY NOT HAVE AN ARMY . . .
. . . BUT AUNT HANNAH LOOKS AS FIERCE AS DAVID MUST HAVE WHEN HE STOOD UP TO THE GIANT.
WE SHOULD REST NOW.
IT'S A LONG TRIP BACK TO THE FOREST.
SHE'S TAKING US TO THE HIDEOUT!
MAX!
THAT ROBIN DID BRING US LUCK!
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT LITTLE BIRD.
I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN LUCKY BIRDS.
MAYBE I SHOULD.

AT BREAKFAST, MR. JABLONSKI GIVES US MORE FOOD THAN I'VE SEEN IN A YEAR.
I DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO REMEMBER MY MANNERS.
I LIKE THE FIGHTERS RIGHT AWAY.
MARTIN IS THE YOUNGEST, BUT HE'S AS BIG AS A BEAR!
LEV IS SHY, BUT WHEN HE TALKS, EVERYONE LISTENS.

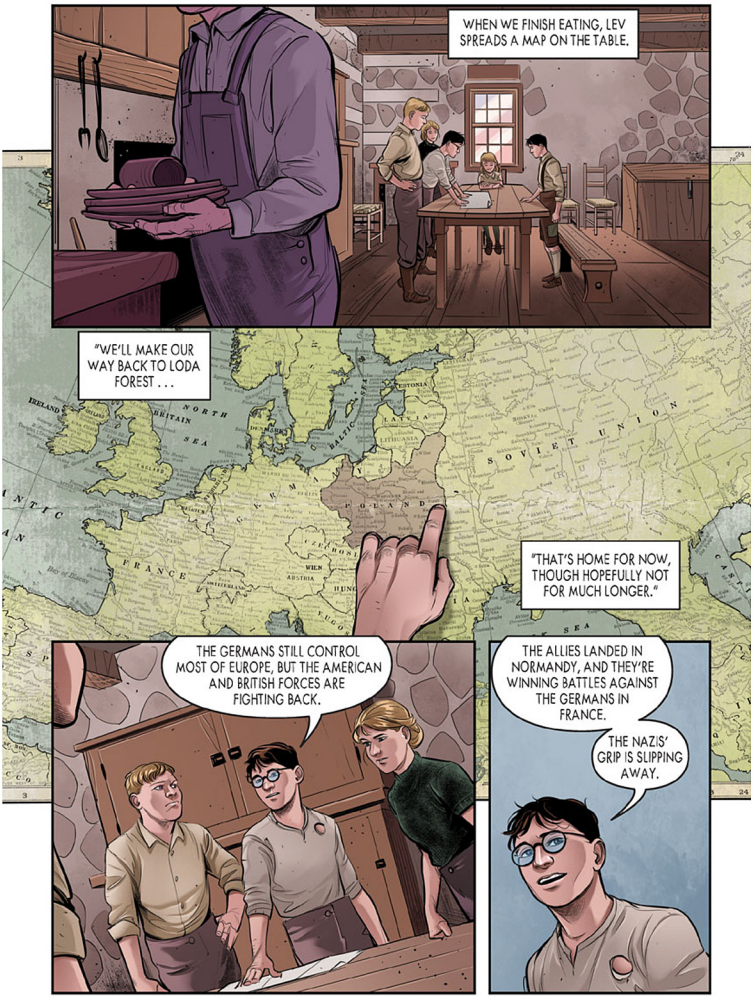
ARE YOU A PARTISAN, MR. JABLONSKI?
OH, NO . . .

I'M A SPY!


MR. JABLONSKI TRICKED THE NAZIS INTO THINKING HE LOVES HITLER.
IN SECRET, HE SUPPLIES US WITH FOOD AND BRINGS US NEWS FROM THE OUTSIDE.

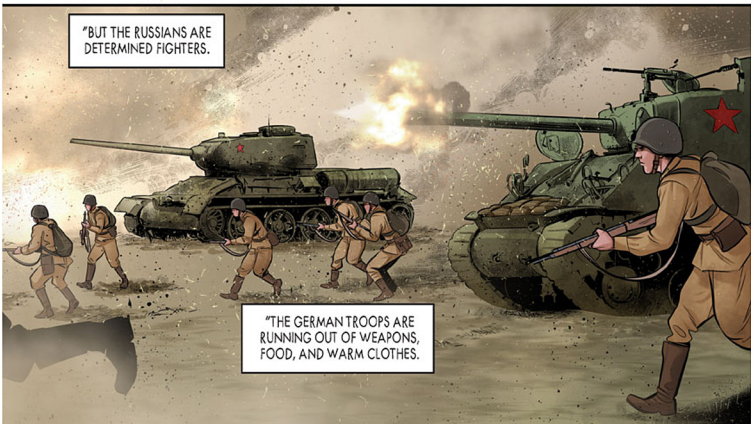
I'M VERY GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE LOCAL NAZI COMMANDER — OR SO HE THINKS.

IMAGINE WHAT THAT FOOL WOULD SAY IF HE KNEW I HELPED THE PARTISANS PLOT AGAINST HIM.


WHEN WE FINISH EATING, LEV SPREADS A MAP ON THE TABLE.
"WE'LL MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO LODA FOREST . . .
"THAT'S HOME FOR NOW, THOUGH HOPEFULLY NOT FOR MUCH LONGER."
THE GERMANS STILL CONTROL MOST OF EUROPE, BUT THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES ARE FIGHTING BACK.
THE ALLIES LANDED IN NORMANDY, AND THEY'RE WINNING BATTLES AGAINST THE GERMANS IN FRANCE.
THE NAZIS' GRIP IS SLIPPING AWAY.

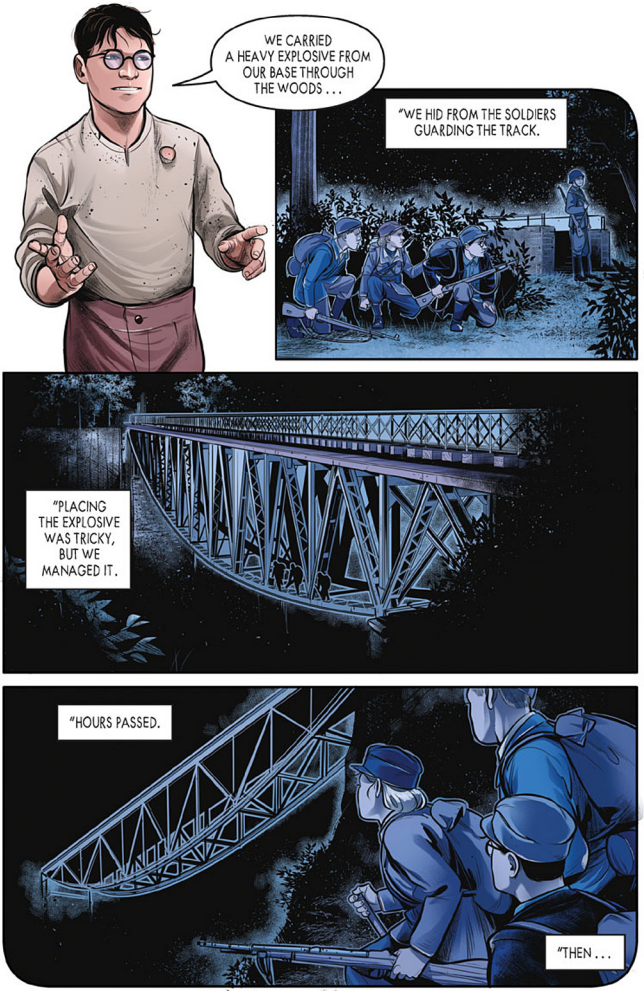
"HITLER'S REAL TROUBLE IS RUSSIA.
ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
BALTIC
SOVIET UNION
(RUSSIA)
POLAND
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"HE'S SENT MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS THERE.
"HE THOUGHT THE RUSSIANS WOULD SURRENDER WITHIN WEEKS.

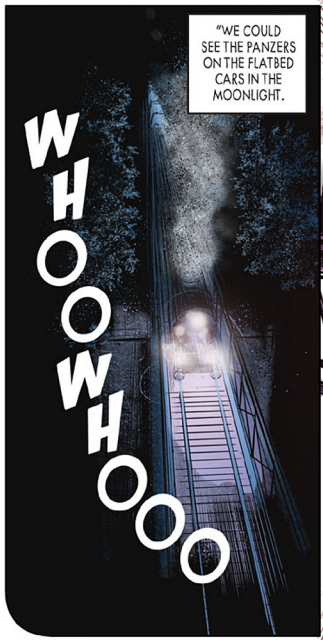

"BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE DETERMINED FIGHTERS.
"THE GERMAN TROOPS ARE RUNNING OUT OF WEAPONS, FOOD, AND WARM CLOTHES.

"THEY SEND IN MORE SUPPLIES ON TRAINS.
"PARTISAN GROUPS ARE TARGETING THEM ALL OVER THE EAST."
IT'S OUR JOB TO MAKE SURE THOSE TRAINS NEVER GET TO THE FRONT LINES.
LAST NIGHT'S TRAIN WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT.
IT HAD THIRTY RAILCARS PACKED WITH MACHINE GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND WINTER UNIFORMS.
IT ALSO HAD TWENTY TANKS. PANZERS.

PANZERS.
I REMEMBER THE STEEL BEASTS THAT RUMBLED THROUGH THE STREETS OF ESTIES.
THEIR GUNS CAN DESTROY AN ENTIRE BUILDING WITH A SINGLE SHOT.

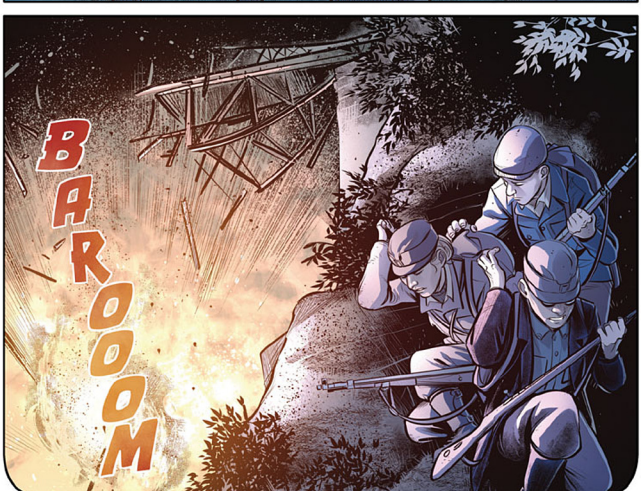

WE CARRIED A HEAVY EXPLOSIVE FROM OUR BASE THROUGH THE WOODS . . .
"WE HID FROM THE SOLDIERS GUARDING THE TRACK.
"PLACING THE EXPLOSIVE WAS TRICKY, BUT WE MANAGED IT.
"HOURS PASSED.
"THEN . . .

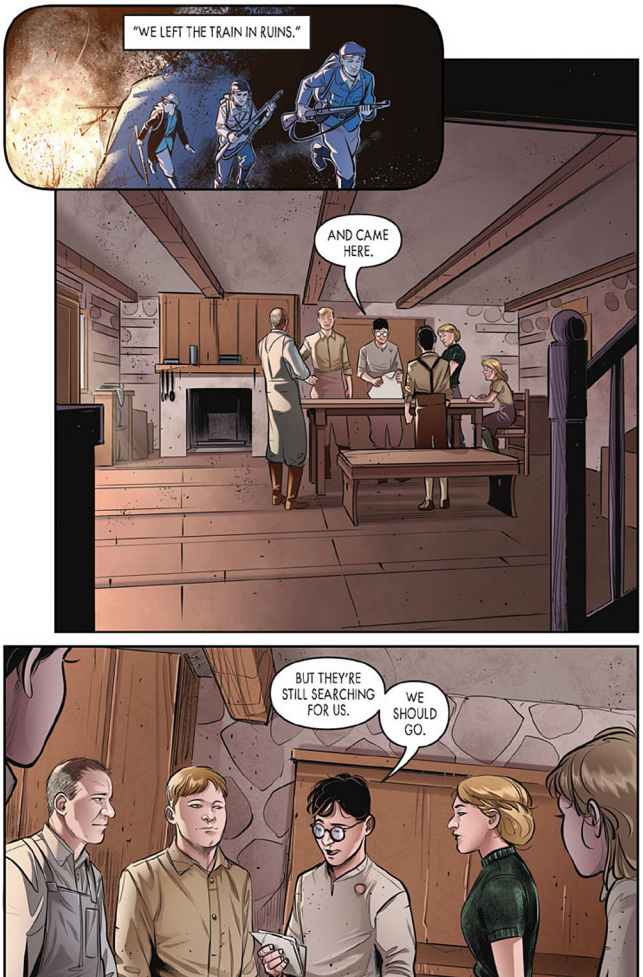
WHOOWOOOO

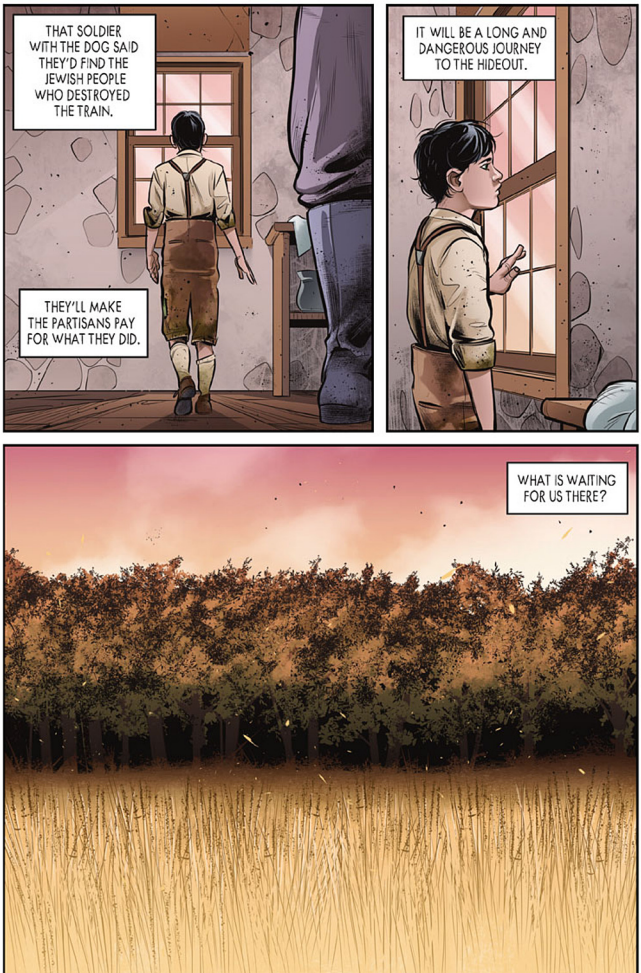

"WE COULD SEE THE PANZERS ON THE FLATBED CARS IN THE MOONLIGHT.
WHOOWHOOO

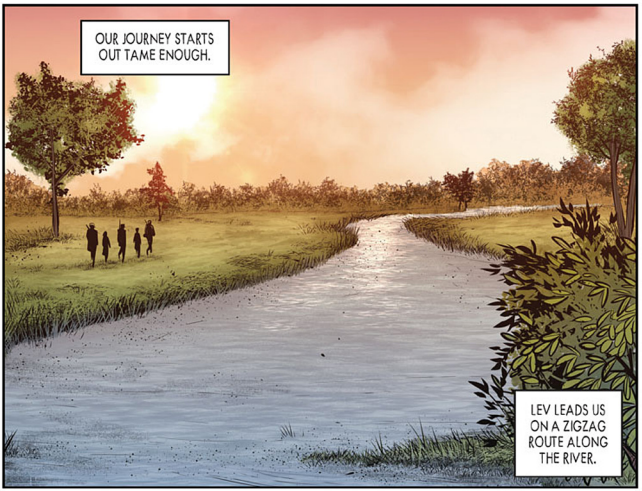
KRAKA BOOOM

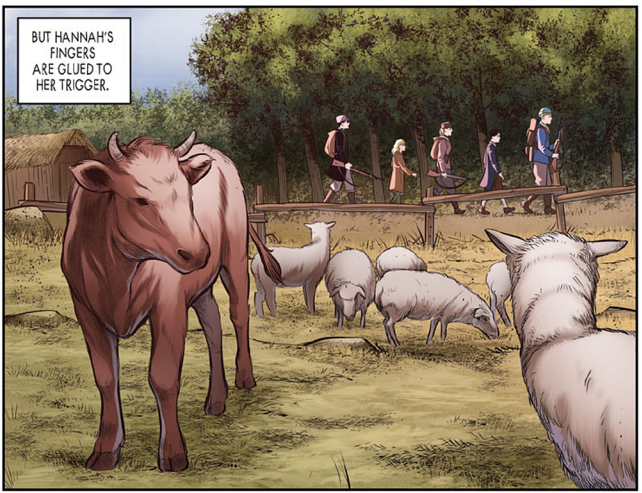
SKREEE

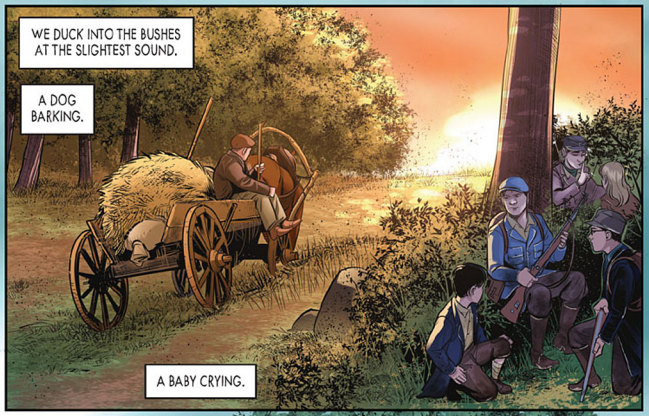

BAROOOM

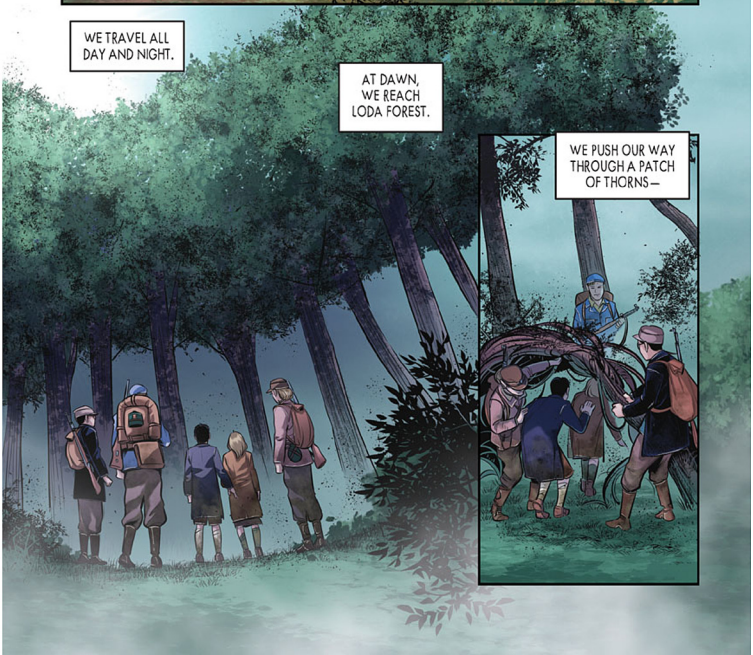

"WE LEFT THE TRAIN IN RUINS."
AND CAME HERE.
BUT THEY'RE STILL SEARCHING FOR US.
WE SHOULD GO.


THAT SOLDIER WITH THE DOG SAID THEY'D FIND THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO DESTROYED THE TRAIN.
THEY'LL MAKE THE PARTISANS PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID.
IT WILL BE A LONG AND DANGEROUS JOURNEY TO THE HIDEOUT.
WHAT IS WAITING FOR US THERE?


OUR JOURNEY STARTS OUT TAME ENOUGH.
LEV LEADS US ON A ZIGZAG ROUTE ALONG THE RIVER.


BUT HANNAH'S FINGERS ARE GLUED TO HER TRIGGER.


WE DUCK INTO THE BUSHES AT THE SLIGHTEST SOUND.
A DOG BARKING.
A BABY CRYING.


WE TRAVEL ALL DAY AND NIGHT.
AT DAWN, WE REACH LODA FOREST.
WE PUSH OUR WAY THROUGH A PATCH OF THORNS—

— AND ENTER ANOTHER WORLD.

I AM REMINDED OF THE GAMES OF HIDE-AND-SEEK WE USED TO PLAY WITH PAPA IN THE WOODS NEAR OUR HOME.
MAX? ZENA?
WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?
I WANT TO SCREAM FROM THE TREETOPS . . .
"I'M HERE, PAPA!"
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU!
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
I'M HERE . . .

AUNT HANNAH STARTS TALKING, AND I REMEMBER WHERE I AM—AND THE DANGERS WE'RE FACING NOW.
THE NAZIS ARE DESPERATE TO CATCH PARTISANS.
THEY SEND SEARCH PLANES TO LOOK FOR OUR CAMPS.
MANY CAMPS HAVE BEEN FOUND AND DESTROYED.
THEY WON'T FIND US!
OUR CAMP IS ON AN ISLAND IN THE SWAMP.
"WE SLEEP IN UNDERGROUND HUTS."
WE BUILT A BRIDGE OF FALLEN TREES ACROSS THE SWAMP TO REACH THE ISLAND—
—THEN WE SUNK IT BENEATH THE WATER SO NO ONE CAN SEE IT.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A MOVIE . . .
DOESN'T IT, ZENA?
ZENA?
ZENA! WHAT'S WRONG?
ILLNESS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGH THE GHETTO.
WAIT!
SIT HER DOWN HERE.

THIS ONE?
UH-HUH . . .
=UHMPH=
MY STOMACH LURCHES WHEN I SEE HER TOE . . .
BUT AUNT HANNAH DOESN'T EVEN FLINCH.
YOUR BOOT IS TOO SMALL.
IT'S NOT THAT BAD.

I'VE SEEN MUCH WORSE!
LOOK AT THIS!
WE SET FIRE TO A BULLET FACTORY, AND I GOT CAUGHT IN THE BARBED WIRE ON THE WAY OUT.
MINE'S UGLIER!
A GRENADE WENT OFF TOO SOON.
SHOW THEM *YOUR* SCAR, LEV.
LEV GOT SHOT IN THE REAR END!
HAHAHAHAHA
HEY! THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MY LITTLE SECRET!

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOUR TOES.
NOW IT'S A SANDAL!
BETTER?
BETTER!
GOOD.
"IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON."

WAIT—
WHAT?
DO YOU HEAR THAT NOISE?
I HEAR IT TOO.
BUT IT ISN'T COMING FROM INSIDE THE FOREST.
WHIRRRRRR
WHIRRRRRR

WHIRRRRRRRRR
MY HEART IS HAMMERING . . .
PLANES!
KABOOOM
IT'S AN ATTACK!

RATTATATATTAT
DIVE!
KABOOOOM
I HOLD ZENA TIGHT...
FROZEN WITH FEAR.

MAX! YOU'RE CRUSHING ME!
I CAN'T BREATHE . . .
I LOOSEN MY GRIP— BUT NOT BY MUCH.
THE SMOKE AND DIRT STING MY EYES.
HACK HACK
HACK HACK
WHIRRRRRRRRR

WE CAN'T STAY HERE! WE NEED TO LEAVE THE FOREST.
NO!
THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT US TO DO.
THEY HAVE THE FOREST SURROUNDED BY NOW.
THE NAZIS ARE TRYING TO FLUSH US OUT SO THEY CAN CAPTURE US WHEN WE TRY TO ESCAPE.
THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST THEY SEND THE PLANES.
THEN THEY SEND THE TROOPS.
SO THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

WE NEED TO GET TO THE SWAMP.
WE CAN HIDE IN THE GRASS THERE UNTIL WE REACH THE CAMP.
WHAT IF THEY FIND THE CAMP?
LEV DOES NOT ANSWER.
THE GERMANS HAVE NO IDEA THAT ISLAND EVEN EXISTS.
THE CAMP WILL BE SAFE.
AND WE WILL GET THERE.
WHIRR
OF COURSE! LET'S GO.

WE RUN AS MACHINE GUN FIRE RAINS DOWN AROUND US.
RAT TAT TAT AT
RAT-TAT TAT AT
ZENA STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP IN HER CUT-OPEN BOOT.
UP WE GO . . .
HOLD ON TIGHT!
BOOOM
ZENA DOESN'T SLOW MARTIN DOWN A BIT.

RATTATATATATATAT
CRACK
RATTATATATATATAT
UHH...
SOME FLYING WOOD SCRATCHES MY CHEEK.
KABOOOOOM
FINALLY, WE REACH THE SWAMP—

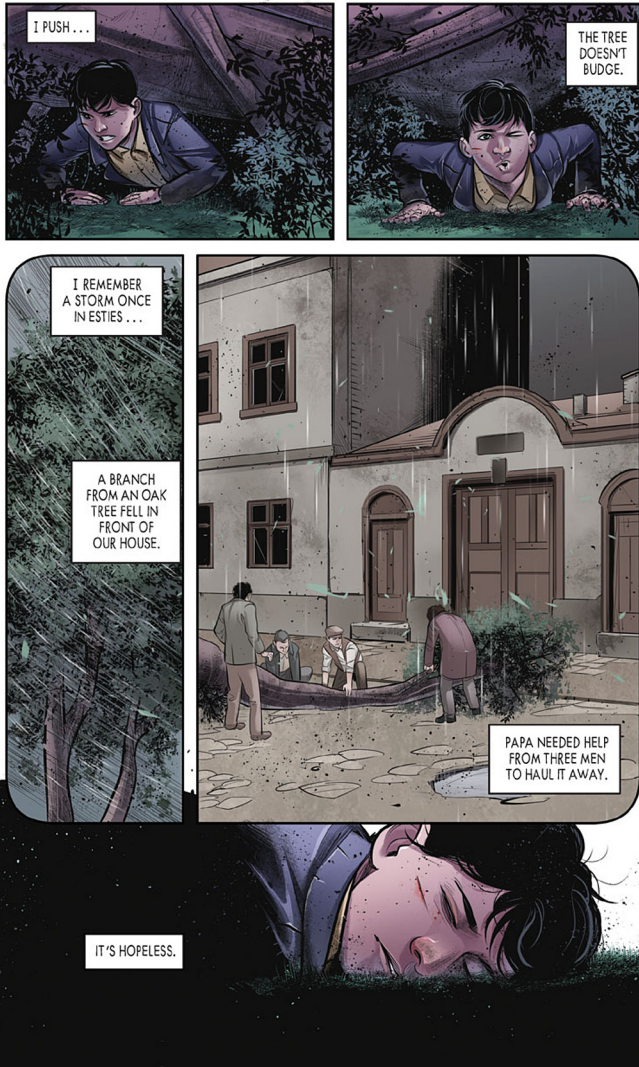
AN ENDLESS SEA OF BROWN-AND-GREEN, SOUPY WATER.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE SLIMY CREATURES THAT LIVE THERE . . .

HERE YOU GO . . .
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
WHIRRRRRRRRRR
YOUR TURN, MAX.
KABOOOOM

RATT TATATATAT RAT-A-TAJA
AM I ALIVE?
I'M NOT HURT . . .
KABOOOOOM
CRACKLE
CREEEAK
CRACKLE

I BRACE MYSELF FOR THE BLOW . . .
CRASH
THE DITCH IS JUST DEEP ENOUGH TO PROTECT ME—
—BUT I'M TRAPPED.

MY HEART IS GOING TO BURST FROM MY CHEST.
I HEAR FOOTSTEPS . . .
"MAX!"
HELP!
BUT THEY CAN'T SEE ME OR HEAR ME . . .
AND SOON THEIR CALLING STOPS.
I'M ALONE.

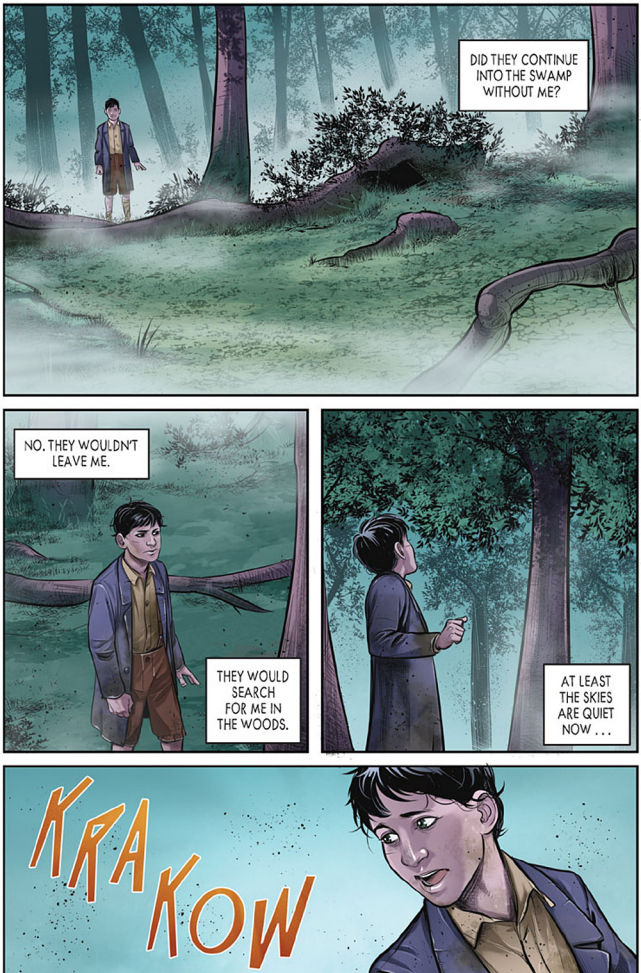

I PUSH . . .
THE TREE DOESN'T BUDGE.
I REMEMBER A STORM ONCE IN ESTIES . . .
A BRANCH FROM AN OAK TREE FELL IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE.
PAPA NEEDED HELP FROM THREE MEN TO HAUL IT AWAY.
IT'S HOPELESS.

IT'S LIKE THE EARTH IS SWALLOWING ME UP.
SOON I'LL DISAPPEAR FOREVER.
FOR A SECOND, I THINK I MIGHT LET THE DARKNESS TAKE ME.
THEN I HEAR MY OWN VOICE IN MY HEAD—
—GET UP!
I WON'T LET THE NAZIS BEAT ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!

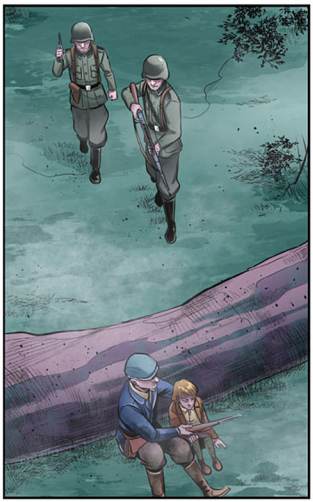
I HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT . . .
A ROCK!
IT'S SMALL—
— BUT SHARP.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
THE WORK IS SLOW . . .
AND I'M BOILING HOT.

BUT IT WORKS!
FRESH AIR POURS IN AND GIVES ME A SECOND WIND.
"MIGHT NEED THIS LATER . . ."
CRAWLING OUT OF THERE FEELS LIKE ESCAPING FROM MY OWN GRAVE.

I MUST HAVE BEEN GONE AT LEAST AN HOUR.
I PRAYED I'D SEE ZENA AND AUNT HANNAH WAITING FOR ME—
—BUT I'M ALONE.

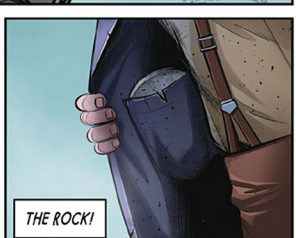

DID THEY CONTINUE INTO THE SWAMP WITHOUT ME?
NO. THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE ME.
THEY WOULD SEARCH FOR ME IN THE WOODS.
AT LEAST THE SKIES ARE QUIET NOW . . .
KRAKOW

SUCHE DORT!
SOLDIERS!
I ALMOST JUMP BACK INTO THE DITCH—BUT I CAN'T.
THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO FIND THE OTHERS.
THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR . . .
MARTIN AND ZENA!



THEY DON'T KNOW THE SOLDIERS ARE BEHIND THEM . . .

WHAT CAN I DO?!


THE ROCK!

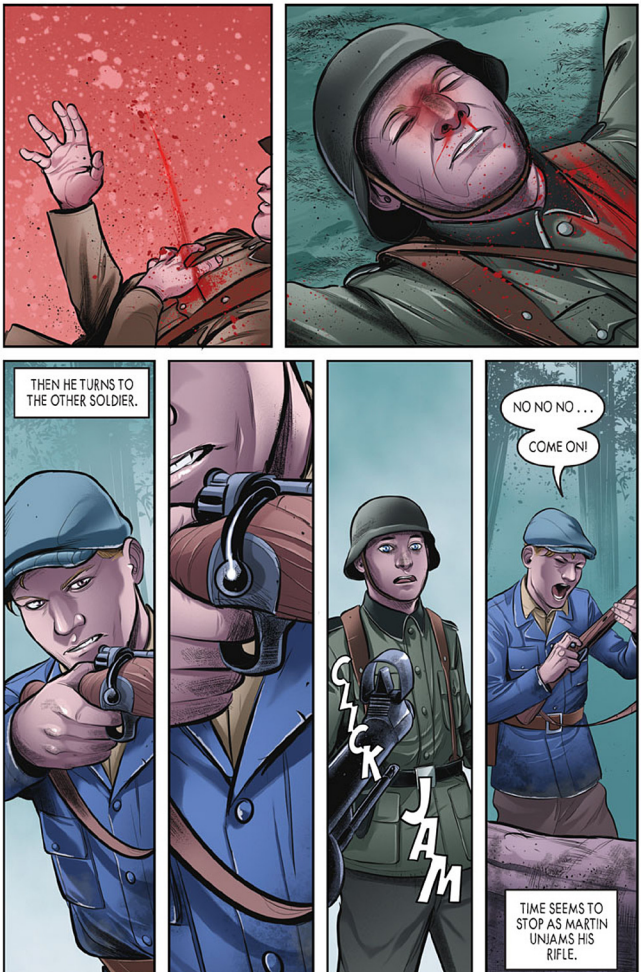
HEY!!

I KNOW THAT LOOK.

GOLIATH MUST HAVE LAUGHED AT DAVID THE SAME WAY.

I CAN FEEL THE RAGE BOILING INSIDE ME...
I HURL THE ROCK AT THE OFFICER WITH ALL MY STRENGTH—
THWACK
A STRAIGHT SHOT—
HE'S NOT LAUGHING ANYMORE.

MARTIN AIMS HIS RIFLE AT THE OFFICER AS HE GETS UP . . .
KRA KOW

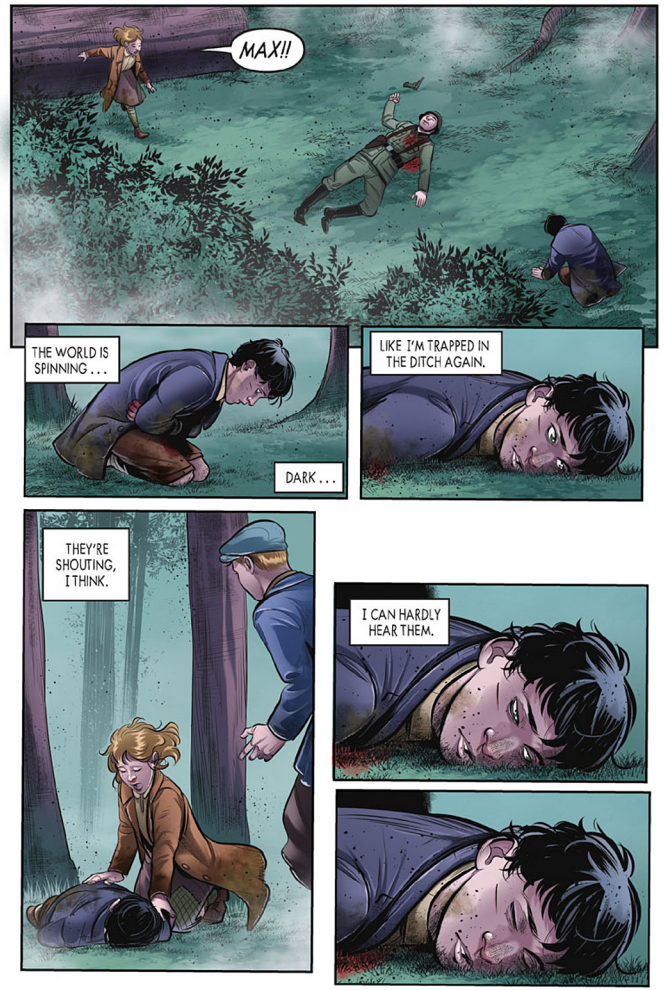

THEN HE TURNS TO THE OTHER SOLDIER.
CLICK
JAM
NO NO NO . . .
COME ON!
TIME SEEMS TO STOP AS MARTIN UNJAMS HIS RIFLE.

I STARE AT THE OTHER SOLDIER.
HE LOOKS YOUNG.
JUST A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN ME.
HE REMINDS ME OF MY OLDER FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL.
BOYS I PLAYED CARDS WITH AND RACED ON THE PLAYGROUND.

THERE'S NO HATRED IN HIS EYES.
HE'S JUST AS SCARED AND CONFUSED AS I AM.
MARTIN AIMS HIS RIFLE AT THE YOUNG SOLDIER AGAIN—
NO!
KRA KOW

UHHH . . .
I'M TOO LATE.
I COULDN'T STOP IT.
THE SOLDIER SEEMS TO FALL IN SLOW MOTION.
AND THEN—
BANG
HIS PISTOL FIRES AS HE HITS THE GROUND.

I FEEL A SEARING PAIN IN MY SIDE.
→GASP←


MAX!!
THE WORLD IS SPINNING . . .
DARK . . .
LIKE I'M TRAPPED IN THE DITCH AGAIN.
THEY'RE SHOUTING, I THINK.
I CAN HARDLY HEAR THEM.

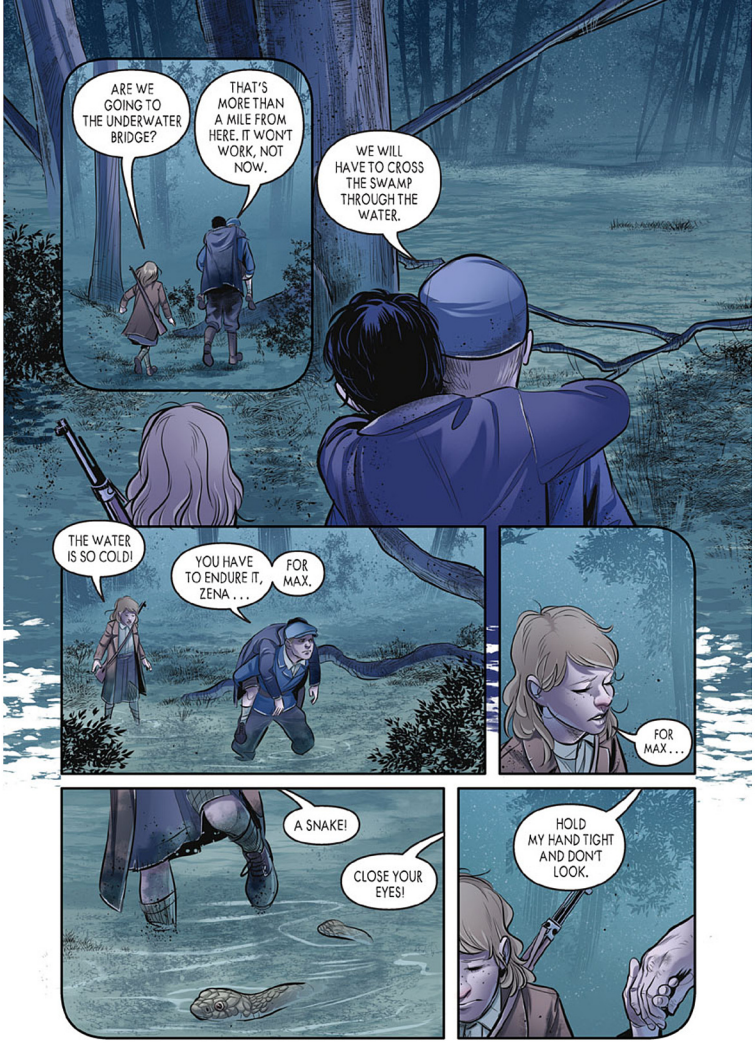
I DRIFT AWAY.
AWAY FROM THE FOREST.
AWAY FROM THE WAR.
THAT SOLDIER IS HERE WITH ME.
I FEEL MYSELF MOVING CLOSER TO HIM—
— BUT SOMEONE IS CALLING MY NAME.
ZENA.
MAX . . . DON'T LEAVE ME . . .

Five weeks later . . .
September 1944,
Jewish partisan camp
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MAX?
PRETTY GOOD, DR. ZELMAN.
I EVEN CLIMBED THE LADDER YESTERDAY, WITH ZENA'S HELP!
GOOD. YOU'RE A VERY LUCKY YOUNG MAN.
THE BULLET LODGED ITSELF BETWEEN TWO OF YOUR RIBS.
HERE AND HERE.
ONE INCH IN EITHER DIRECTION . . .
AND I WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THE DAYS AFTER I GOT SHOT.
BUT ZENA AND DR. ZELMAN HAVE TOLD ME THE STORY A MILLION TIMES.

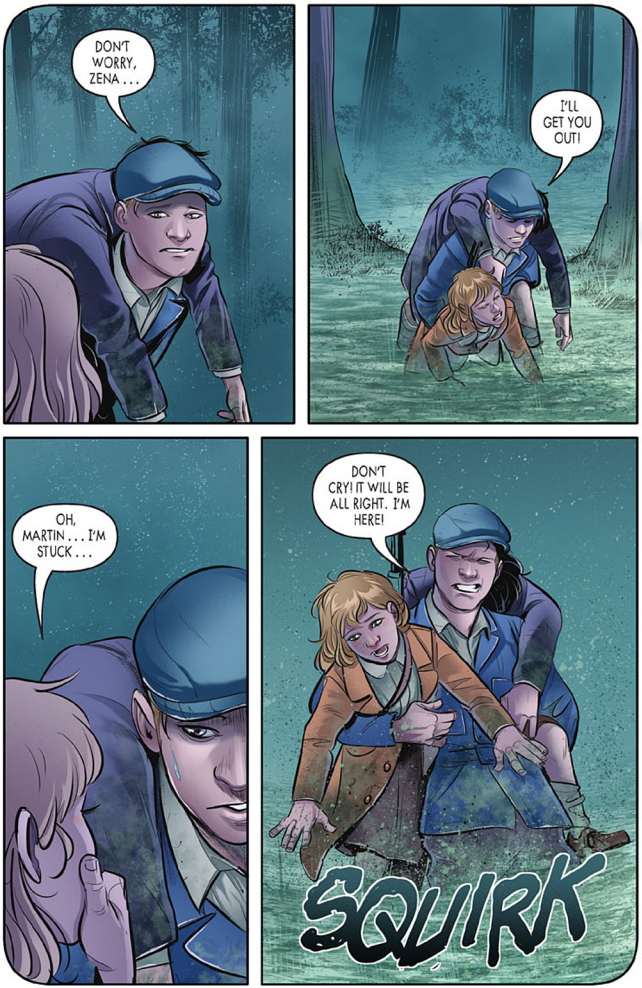
I CAN SEE IT LIKE A MOVIE IN MY MIND . . .
MARTIN, WILL MAX BE ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW, ZENA. I PRAY THAT HE WILL.
"MORE SOLDIERS ARE COMING . . .
"WE MUST STAY QUIET UNTIL THEY PASS."

HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN HERE? IT FEELS LIKE HOURS . . .
LONG ENOUGH. WE SHOULD GO NOW. I THINK THEY'RE GONE.
UHHH . . .
MAX . . .
HE'S IN A LOT OF PAIN.
HE NEEDS REST, BUT WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ANY LONGER. WE NEED TO FIND A DOCTOR.
HE CAN'T WALK ON HIS OWN?
HOW FAR CAN YOU CARRY HIM?

AS FAR AS I HAVE TO.
IS THAT—?
SNAP
FOOTSTEPS.
SHHH...


ARE WE GOING TO THE UNDERWATER BRIDGE?
THAT'S MORE THAN A MILE FROM HERE. IT WON'T WORK, NOT NOW.
WE WILL HAVE TO CROSS THE SWAMP THROUGH THE WATER.
THE WATER IS SO COLD!
YOU HAVE TO ENDURE IT, ZENA . . .
FOR MAX.
FOR MAX . . .
A SNAKE!
CLOSE YOUR EYES!
HOLD MY HAND TIGHT AND DON'T LOOK.

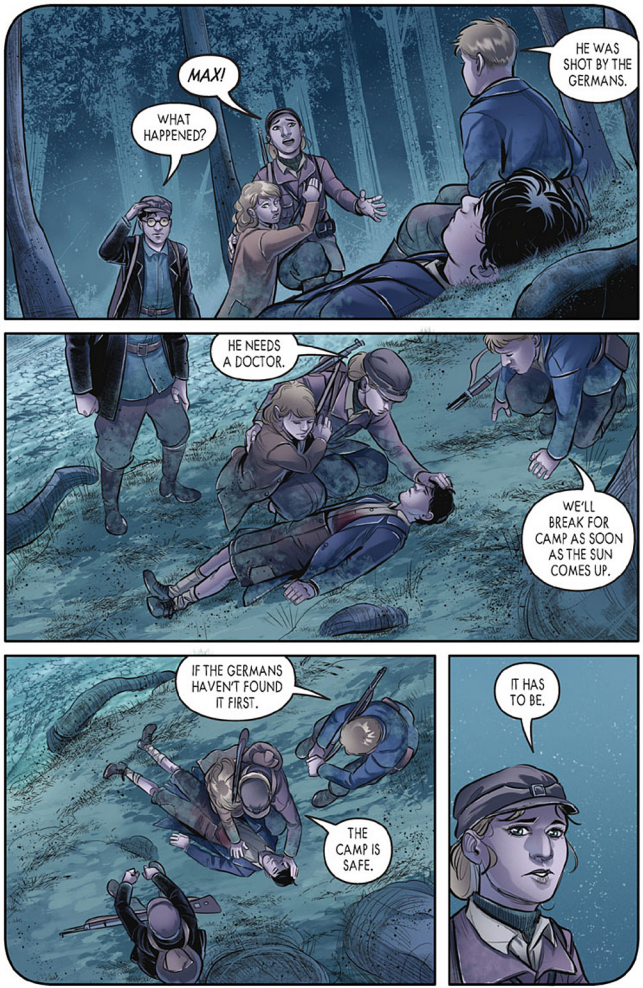
THE WATER IS GETTING THICKER!
IT'S ONLY MUD. DON'T STAND IN ONE PLACE TOO LONG.
≥UMPH!≤
MARTIN! I CAN'T MOVE!


DON'T WORRY, ZENA . . .
I'LL GET YOU OUT!
OH, MARTIN . . . I'M STUCK . . .
DON'T CRY! IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. I'M HERE!
SQUIRK

I'M SORRY, ZENA . . .
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO ON IN THE DARK. WE MUST REST.
WE CAN REST THERE!
RATT ATA TATT AT
RAT TAT

MARTIN, WHAT'S THAT?

STAY CLOSE . . .
HANNAH? LEV?
THEY'RE ALIVE!
THANK GOODNESS.


MAX!
WHAT HAPPENED?
HE WAS SHOT BY THE GERMANS.
HE NEEDS A DOCTOR.
WE'LL BREAK FOR CAMP AS SOON AS THE SUN COMES UP.
IF THE GERMANS HAVEN'T FOUND IT FIRST.
THE CAMP IS SAFE.
IT HAS TO BE.

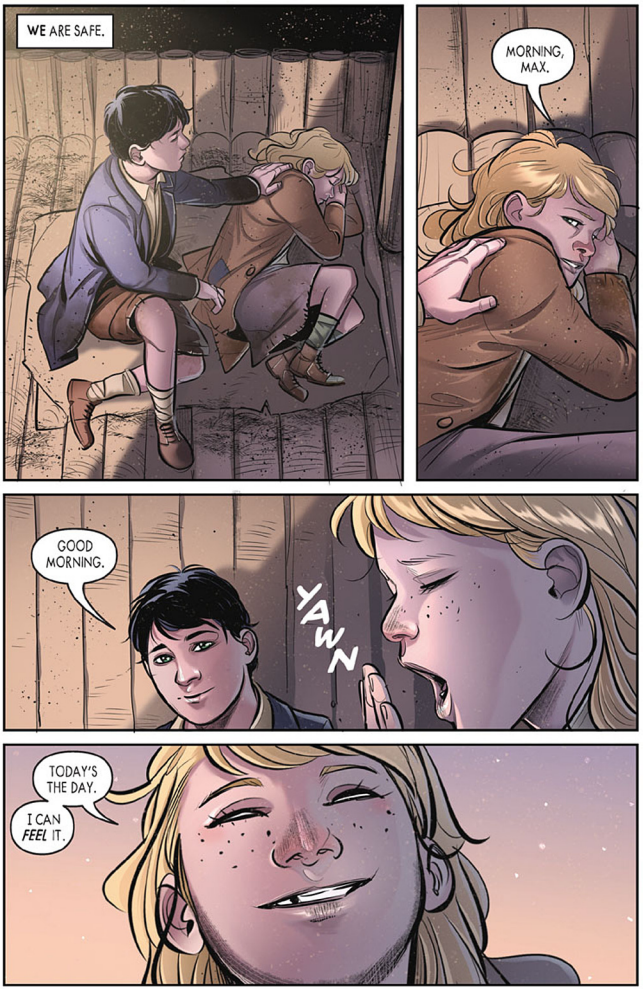
YOU WERE RIGHT . . .
THE GERMANS DIDN'T FIND THE ISLAND!
DR. ZELMAN!
HELP ME GET HIM TO A BED . . .

HMM . . .
FIRST WE PATCH HIM UP . . .
YOU'RE A BRAVE GIRL TO BE WATCHING THIS, ZENA.
REMOVING BULLETS IS A NASTY BUSINESS.
MAX DIDN'T LEAVE ME BEHIND . . .
THEN WE MEDICATE HIM TO PREVENT INFECTION.
THEN WE WAIT AND SEE.
I WON'T LEAVE HIM.

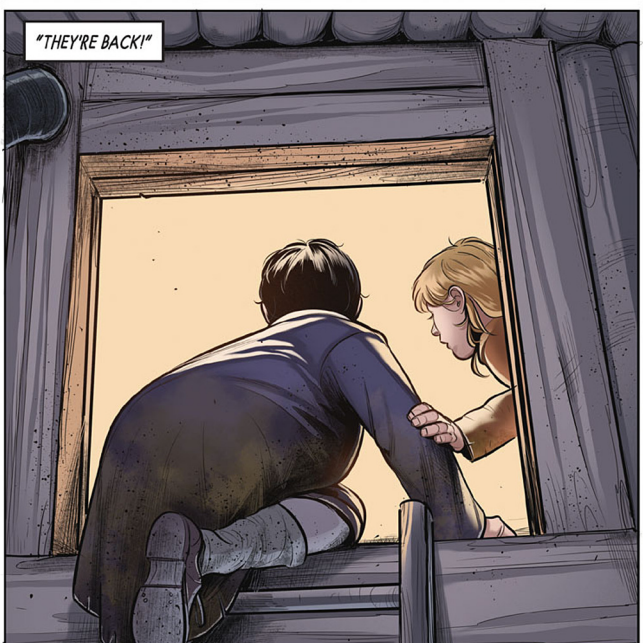
I'M GLAD YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, MAX. TAKE CARE OF THAT SCAR, OKAY?
WILL DO, DR. ZELMAN.
WOW, MAX!
YOUR SCAR IS EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN MARTIN'S OR AUNT HANNAH'S!
AUNT HANNAH...
SHE LEFT WITH MARTIN AND LEV A FEW DAYS AGO TO RETRIEVE MORE SUPPLIES FROM MR. JABLONSKI.
THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK BY NOW.
COME ON, LET'S LISTEN TO THE LATEST NEWS.
THE RUSSIANS HAVE FINALLY CHASED THE NAZIS OUT.
NOW THE ALLIES AND RUSSIANS HAVE REACHED THE GERMAN BORDERS.
HITLER'S TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

MAY HITLER CONTINUE TO BE A FOOL. WE MIGHT SEE THE END OF THIS WAR YET.
COULD IT BE NEARLY OVER?
PERHAPS.
THEN WE CAN RETURN TO OUR OWN BEDS. NO MORE CROWDED COTS!
HOME . . .
I LEFT MY PARENTS BACK IN ESTIES.
MY BROTHER . . . HIS FAMILY . . .
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS HAPPENED THERE?
NO ONE CAN SAY . . .
MAYBE WE WILL HAVE NEWS OF ESTIES WHEN LEV COMES BACK.

THAT NIGHT, I DREAM I'M STILL IN THE DITCH.
CRASH!
IT'S THE SAME DREAM EVERY NIGHT.
EVERY MORNING, I WAKE UP AFRAID, BUT THEN I REMEMBER WHERE I AM—
—THAT I AM SAFE.

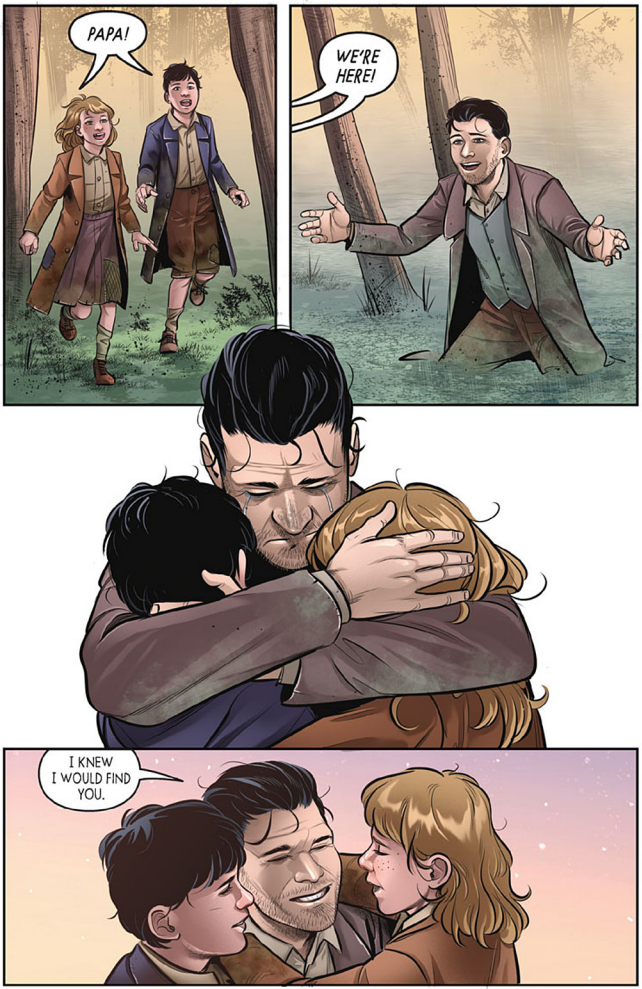

WE ARE SAFE.
MORNING, MAX.
GOOD MORNING.
YAWN
TODAY'S THE DAY.
I CAN *FEEL* IT.

AND THEN, AS IF IT HEARD ZENA'S PREDICTION, A VOICE SOUNDS FROM ABOVE . . .


"THEY'RE BACK!"

THEY'RE BACK FROM ESTIES!
. . . THERE THEY ARE!

SOMEONE ELSE IS WITH THEM—
—BUT I MUST BE DREAMING . . .


PAPA!
WE'RE HERE!
I KNEW I WOULD FIND YOU.

ZENA AND I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID THEY TAKE YOU?
HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?
NOW, NOW, SLOW DOWN . . .
I'LL START AT THE BEGINNING.

"THE SOLDIERS PUT ME ON A TRAIN . . .

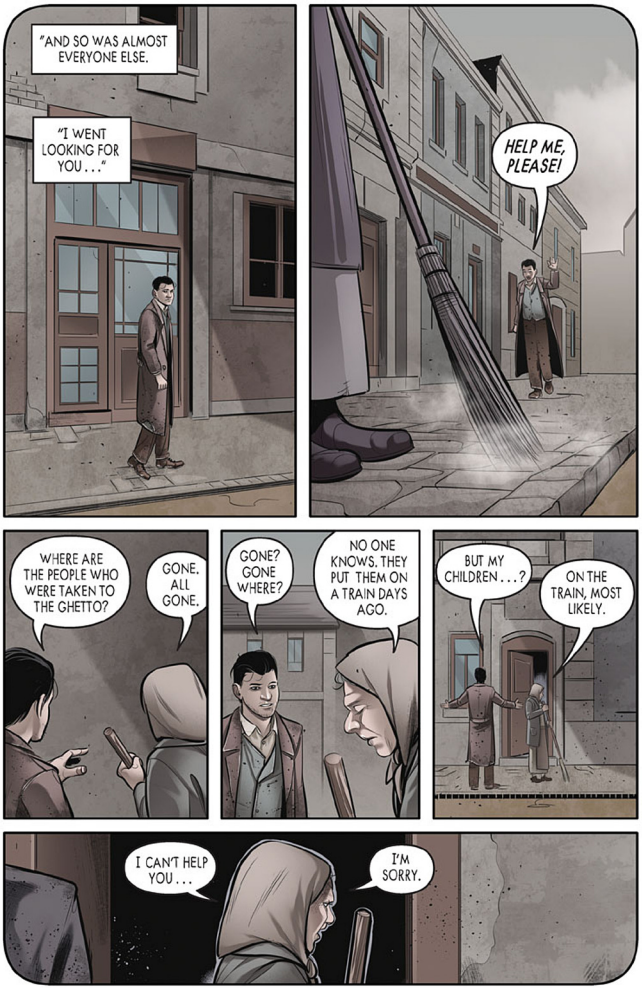
"THEY PACKED US LIKE CATTLE.
"THERE WAS NO FOOD AND NO WATER TO DRINK.

"SOME OF THE MEN MANAGED TO BREAK OPEN THE DOOR . . .

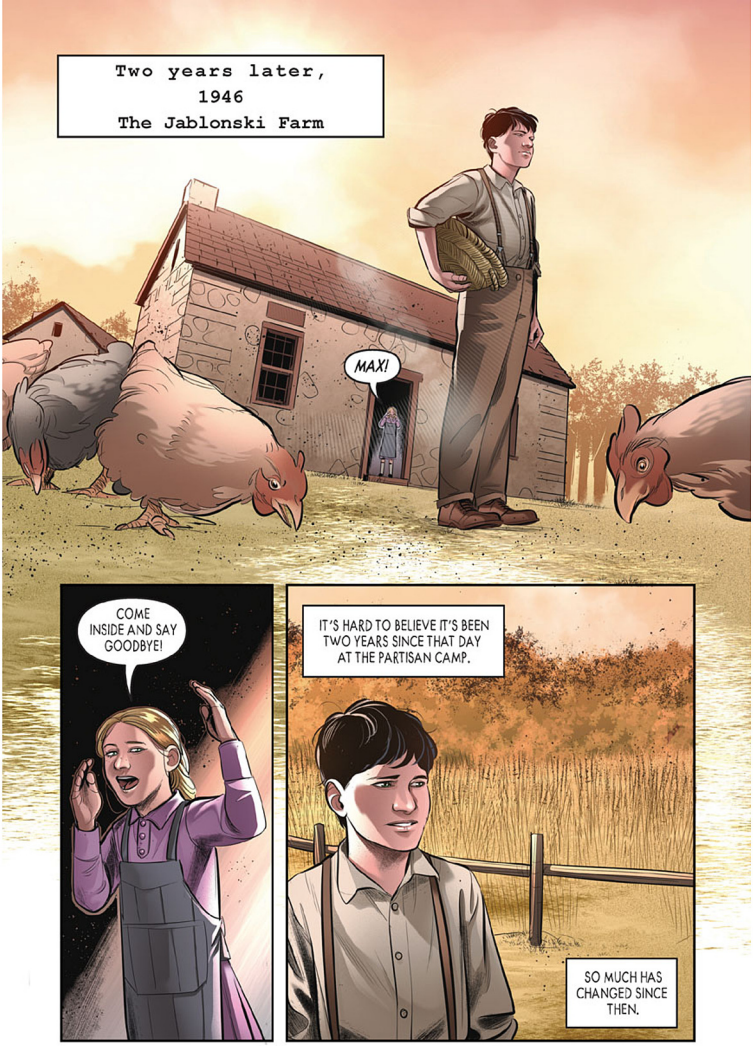
"I SAW THE TREES MOVING BY. FRESH AIR RUSHED IN.

"I STOOD THERE, FROZEN.
"DID I DARE JUMP?

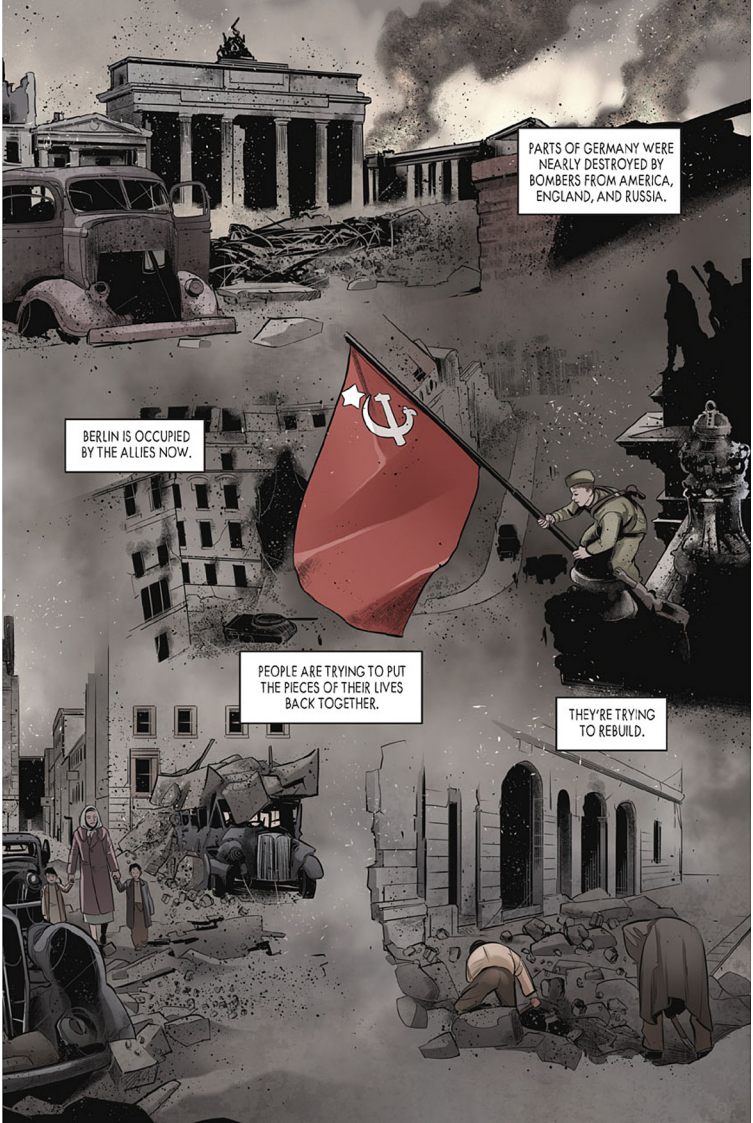
"ONCE I ROLLED TO A STOP, I RAN FOR THE TREES.
"I KNOW THOSE WOODS WELL.
"I MADE MY WAY BACK TO ESTIES. IT WAS A LONG WALK TO GET THERE.
"BY THE TIME I GOT BACK, THE NAZIS WERE GONE—

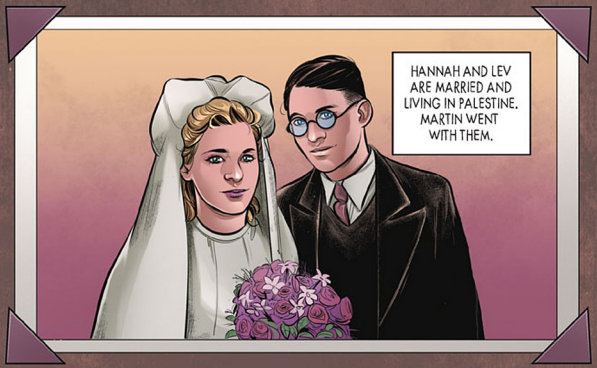

"AND SO WAS ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE.
"I WENT LOOKING FOR YOU..."
HELP ME, PLEASE!
WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE TAKEN TO THE GHETTO?
GONE. ALL GONE.
GONE? GONE WHERE?
NO ONE KNOWS. THEY PUT THEM ON A TRAIN DAYS AGO.
BUT MY CHILDREN...?
ON THE TRAIN, MOST LIKELY.
I CAN'T HELP YOU...
I'M SORRY.

"I REFUSED TO BELIEVE YOU WERE LOST.
"I SEARCHED FROM DOOR TO DOOR."
I HEARD A FARMER RESCUED TWO CHILDREN FROM HIS WHEAT FIELD.
YOU SHOULD SPEAK TO HIM.
"JABLONSKI IS HIS NAME."
THAT'S HOW I FOUND YOU AGAIN.


Two years later,
1946
The Jablonski Farm
MAX!
COME INSIDE AND SAY GOODBYE!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THAT DAY AT THE PARTISAN CAMP.
SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN.

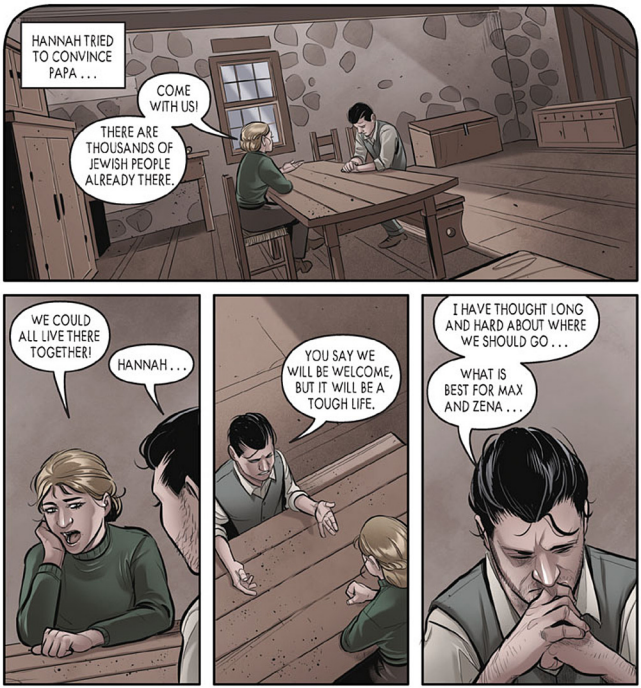
THE WAR IS LONG OVER.
HITLER IS DEAD.
HITLER DEAD
HITLER DEAD
THOUSANDS OF NAZIS ARE IN PRISON.
MANY WERE PUT ON TRIAL FOR THEIR CRIMES.
MOST OF EUROPE IS IN RUINS.


PARTS OF GERMANY WERE NEARLY DESTROYED BY BOMBERS FROM AMERICA, ENGLAND, AND RUSSIA.
BERLIN IS OCCUPIED BY THE ALLIES NOW.
PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO PUT THE PIECES OF THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER.
THEY'RE TRYING TO REBUILD.



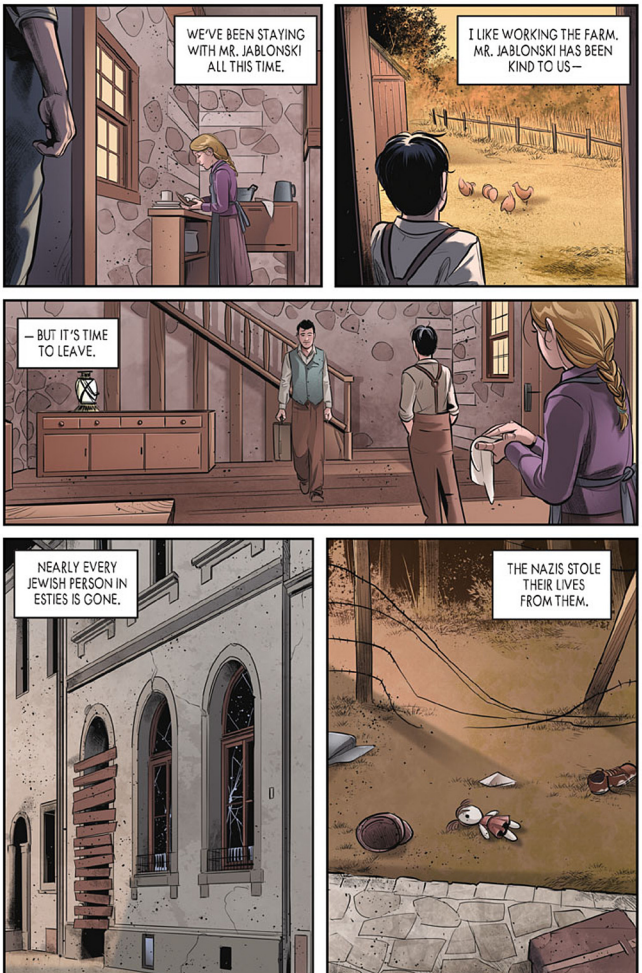
THEY ARE BUILDING A NEW JEWISH STATE.

ISRAEL.

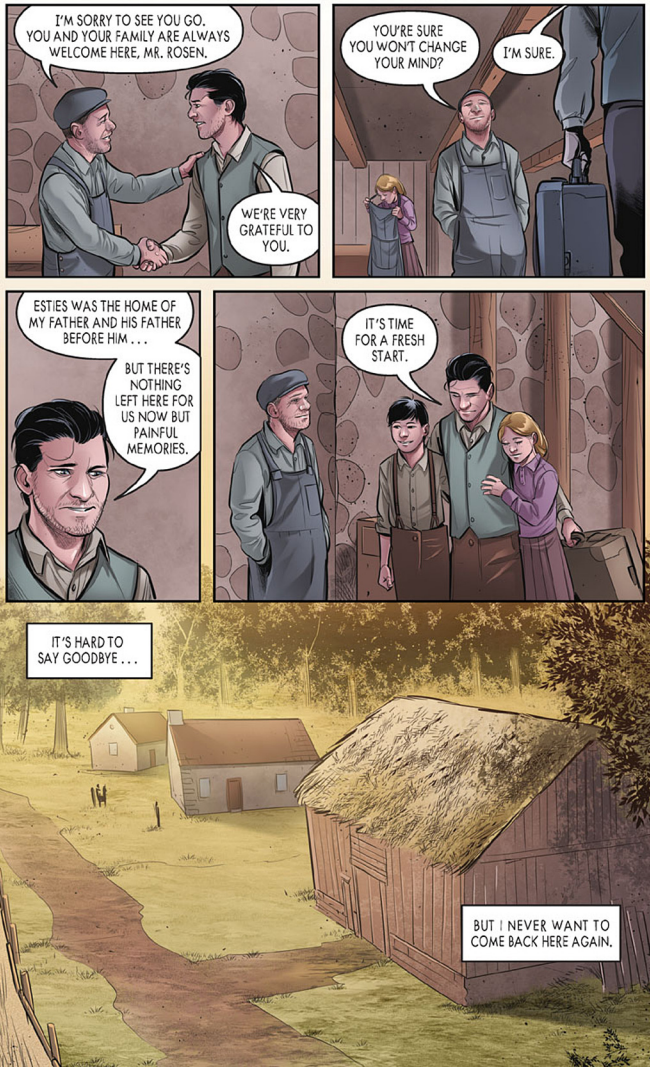

HANNAH TRIED TO CONVINCE PAPA . . .
COME WITH US!
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF JEWISH PEOPLE ALREADY THERE.
WE COULD ALL LIVE THERE TOGETHER!
HANNAH . . .
YOU SAY WE WILL BE WELCOME, BUT IT WILL BE A TOUGH LIFE.
I HAVE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHERE WE SHOULD GO . . .
WHAT IS BEST FOR MAX AND ZENA . . .

WE WILL GO TO AMERICA.

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE DAY THEY LEFT FOR PALESTINE . . .
THIS IS NOT GOODBYE. WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER SOON.
SHE SOUNDED AS CERTAIN AS EVER—
— BUT I COULD SEE THE TEARS IN HER EYES.
WE ALL KNEW IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE WE COULD BE TOGETHER AGAIN.


WE'VE BEEN STAYING WITH MR. JABLONSKI ALL THIS TIME.
I LIKE WORKING THE FARM. MR. JABLONSKI HAS BEEN KIND TO US—
— BUT IT'S TIME TO LEAVE.
NEARLY EVERY JEWISH PERSON IN ESTIES IS GONE.
THE NAZIS STOLE THEIR LIVES FROM THEM.

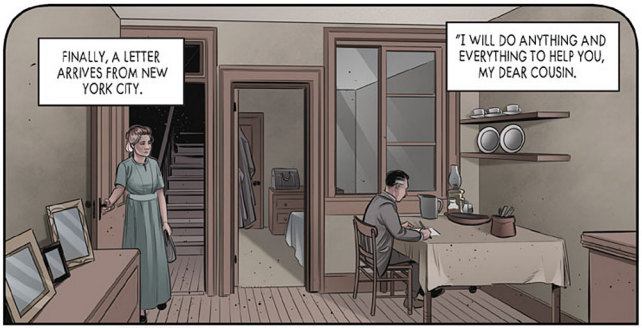
THERE SEEM TO BE GHOSTS EVERYWHERE.


I'M SORRY TO SEE YOU GO. YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE, MR. ROSEN.
WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
YOU'RE SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND?
I'M SURE.
ESTIES WAS THE HOME OF MY FATHER AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM . . .
BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE FOR US NOW BUT PAINFUL MEMORIES.
IT'S TIME FOR A FRESH START.
IT'S HARD TO SAY GOODBYE . . .
BUT I NEVER WANT TO COME BACK HERE AGAIN.

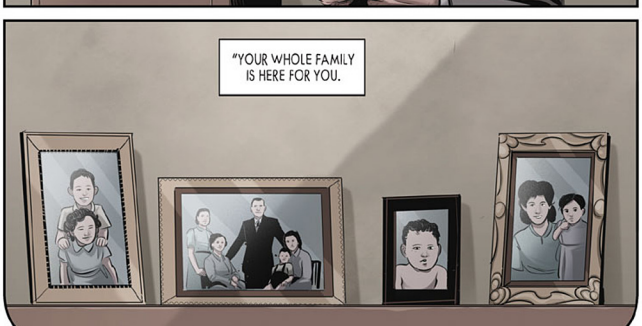
WE WANDER FOR MONTHS.
THROUGH AUSTRIA, GERMANY, AND ITALY.
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF OTHERS LIKE US.
WE ARE REFUGEES—PEOPLE WHO LOST EVERYTHING.
WE HAVE NO HOMES, NO MONEY . . .
NOWHERE WE BELONG.

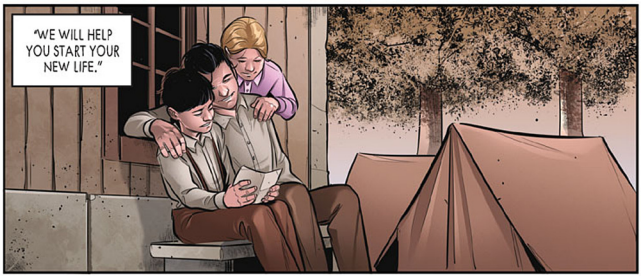
WE MAKE OUR WAY TO ROME . . .
AND STAY AT A SMALL CAMP WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHER REFUGEES.
THE VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK HERE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

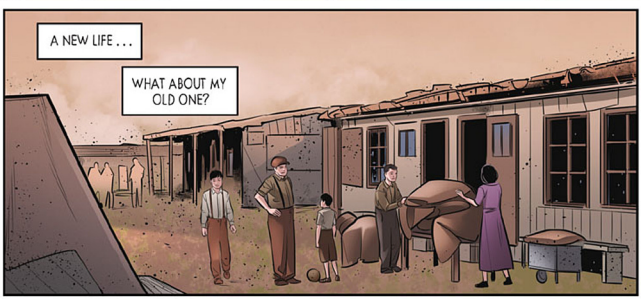
I WAS TOLD YOU ARE AN AMERICAN WHO CAN HELP ME WRITE A LETTER IN ENGLISH.
OH, YES. WHO ARE YOU WRITING TO?
MY COUSIN SAUL. HE LIVES IN NEW YORK CITY.
THIS IS THE ADDRESS.
I MUST TELL HIM WE WANT TO GO TO AMERICA.
THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO AMERICA IS TO HAVE THE HELP OF A FAMILY MEMBER WHO ALREADY LIVES THERE.
IT TAKES MONTHS FOR PAPA'S LETTER TO REACH SAUL.
ZENA AND I ATTEND THE CAMP SCHOOL WHILE WE WAIT.

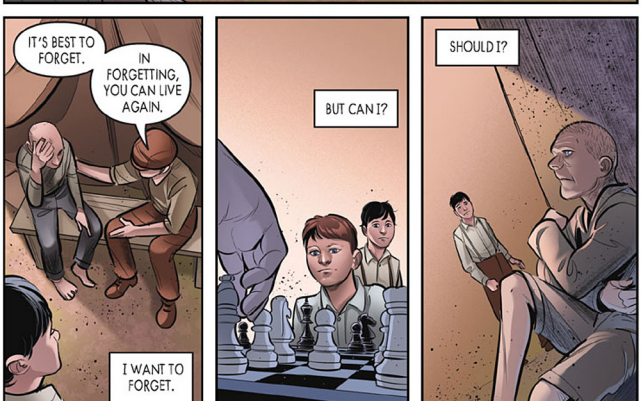

FINALLY, A LETTER ARRIVES FROM NEW YORK CITY.
"I WILL DO ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO HELP YOU, MY DEAR COUSIN.

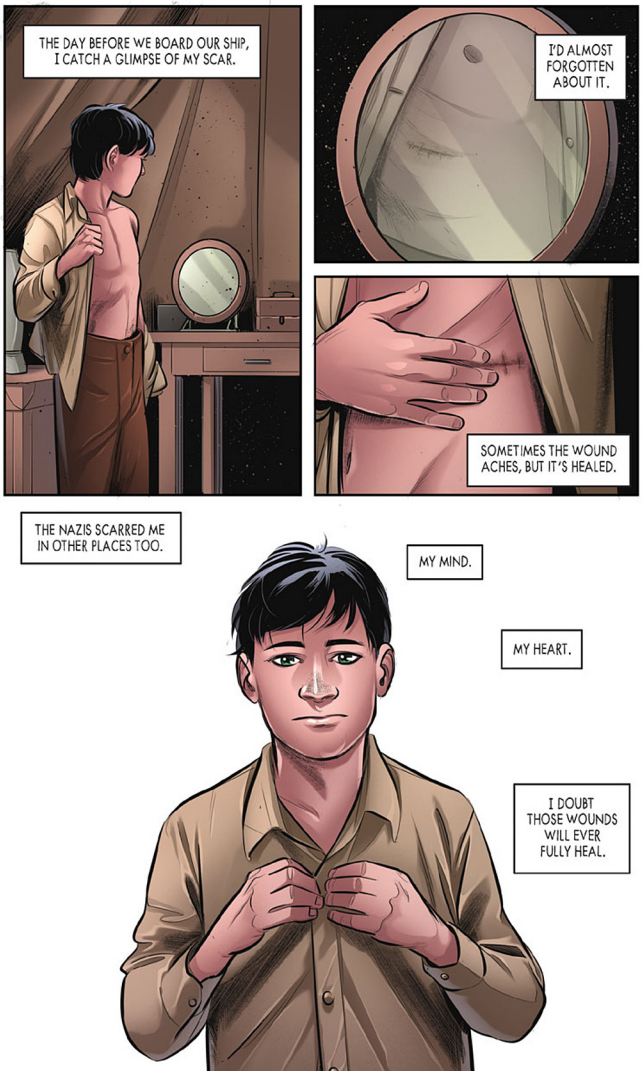
"MY WIFE, JENNIE, AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOUR SHIP.


"YOUR WHOLE FAMILY IS HERE FOR YOU.

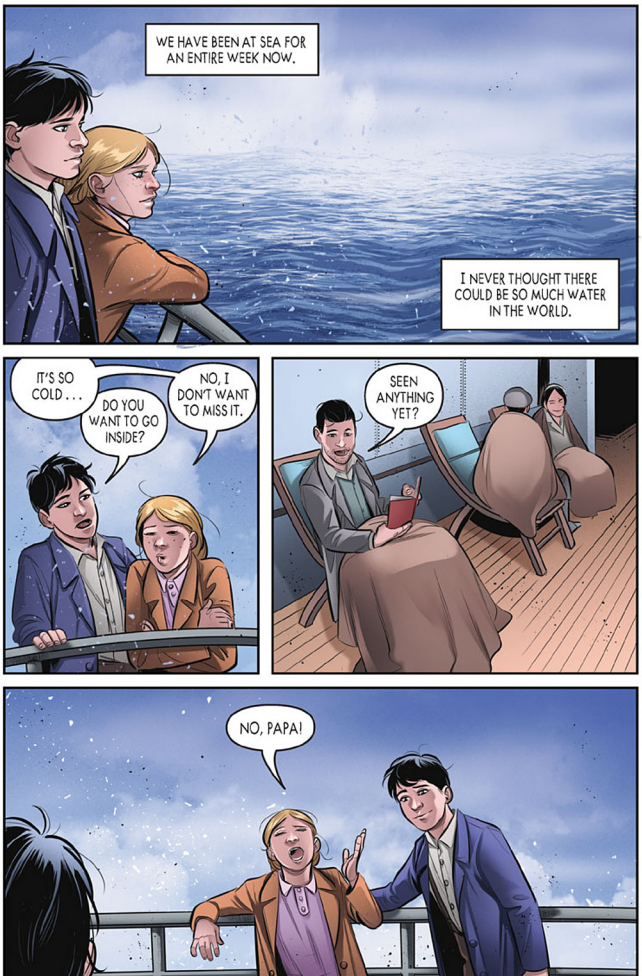

"WE WILL HELP YOU START YOUR NEW LIFE."

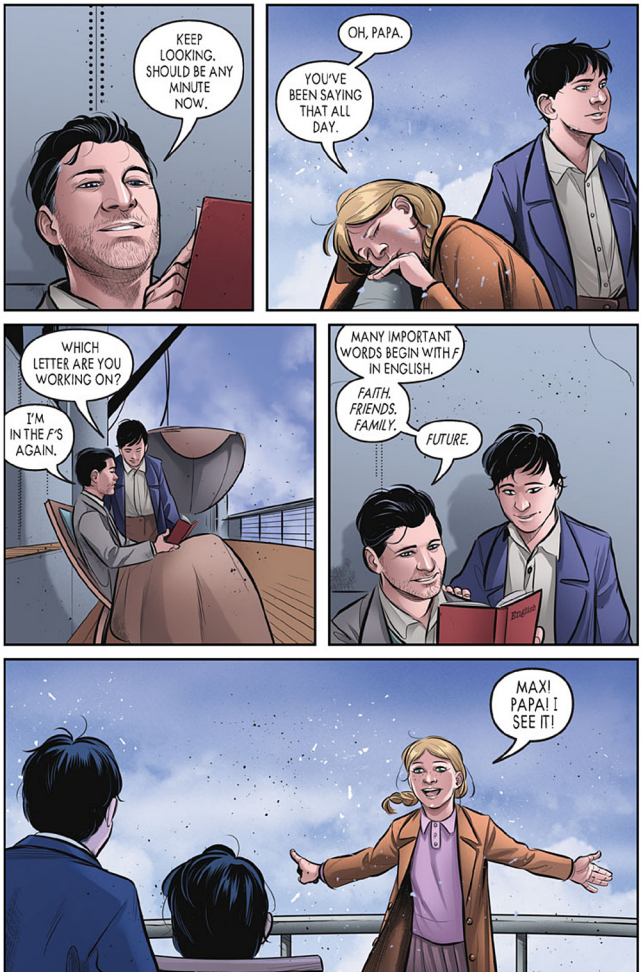

A NEW LIFE . . .
WHAT ABOUT MY OLD ONE?

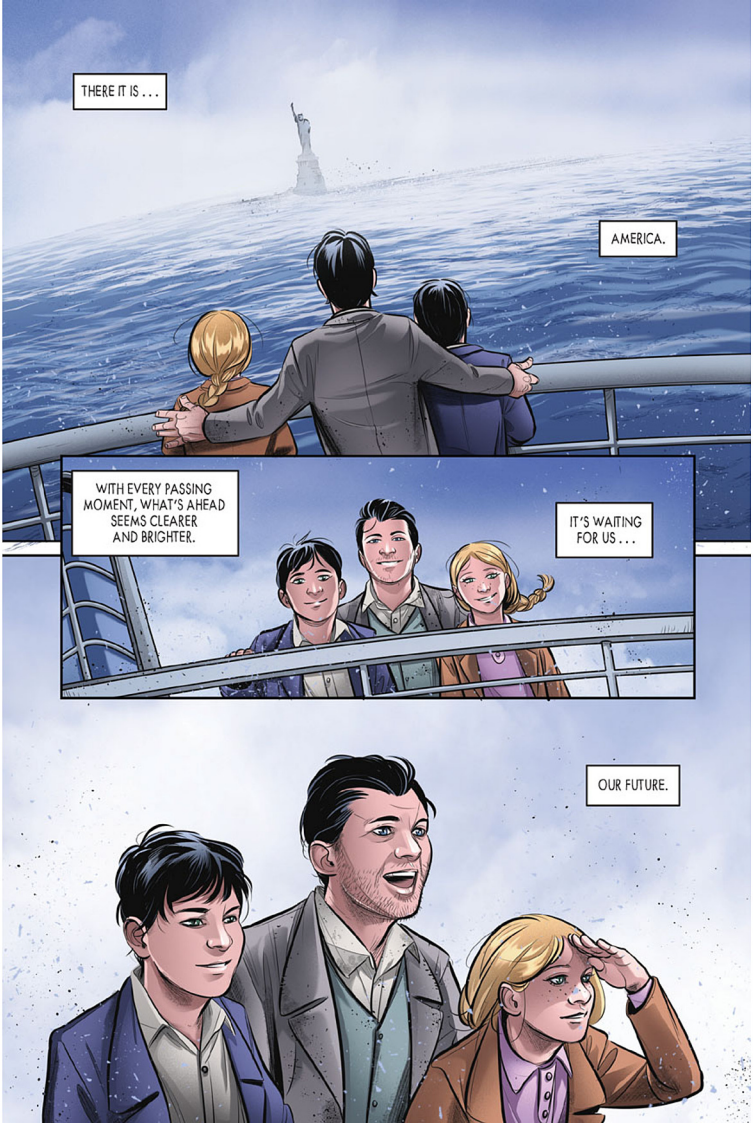

IT'S BEST TO FORGET.
IN FORGETTING, YOU CAN LIVE AGAIN.
I WANT TO FORGET.
BUT CAN I?
SHOULD I?


THE DAY BEFORE WE BOARD OUR SHIP, I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MY SCAR.
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
SOMETIMES THE WOUND ACHES, BUT IT'S HEALED.
THE NAZIS SCARRED ME IN OTHER PLACES TOO.
MY MIND.
MY HEART.
I DOUBT THOSE WOUNDS WILL EVER FULLY HEAL.

THERE ARE GOOD MEMORIES TOO.
I WILL NEVER FORGET THE KINDNESS OF MR. JABLONSKI . . .
THE INCREDIBLE LUCK OF FINDING AUNT HANNAH . . .
AND REUNITING WITH PAPA.
THOSE MEMORIES MAKE ME STRONGER.
THEY GIVE ME HOPE AGAIN.


WE HAVE BEEN AT SEA FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK NOW.
I NEVER THOUGHT THERE COULD BE SO MUCH WATER IN THE WORLD.
IT'S SO COLD . . .
DO YOU WANT TO GO INSIDE?
NO, I DON'T WANT TO MISS IT.
SEEN ANYTHING YET?
NO, PAPA!


KEEP LOOKING. SHOULD BE ANY MINUTE NOW.
OH, PAPA.
YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT ALL DAY.
WHICH LETTER ARE YOU WORKING ON?
I'M IN THE F'S AGAIN.
MANY IMPORTANT WORDS BEGIN WITH F IN ENGLISH.
FAITH. FRIENDS. FAMILY.
FUTURE.
MAX! PAPA! I SEE IT!


THERE IT IS . . .
AMERICA.
WITH EVERY PASSING MOMENT, WHAT'S AHEAD SEEMS CLEARER AND BRIGHTER.
IT'S WAITING FOR US . . .
OUR FUTURE.

TURN THE PAGE
TO READ MORE ABOUT
THE REAL-LIFE EVENTS OF

THE HOLOCAUST AND WORLD WAR II

Dear Readers,

The events in this book, part of what is known as the Holocaust, are among the most terrible in all of history. I'm Jewish, and I remember first learning about Hitler and the Nazis and World War II when I was about your age. It's all so frightening to think about. There were times while I was writing this book when I wondered if the subject was just too horrifying to include in the I Survived series.

But many hundreds of you asked for a story on this topic. And so I decided to do my best to write about the Holocaust in a way that wasn't simply terrifying. I wanted to create a story that would inspire you. I wanted to help you begin to understand what happened. My hope is that you'll think about my story after you read it. I want you to talk about it with your parents, your teachers, and your friends.

Because by learning about the Holocaust—thinking about it, talking about it—you honor the memories of those who died and the millions of others who suffered. You also realize how lucky we are to live in a place where so many different kinds of people can live together peacefully. You already know it's wrong to be cruel to someone because they're different. The Holocaust shows what happens when people forget that, when hatred and prejudice explode out of control.

Like all of the stories in the I Survived series, this is a work of historical fiction. That means that all of the facts are true. I do tons of research to learn everything I can about a topic. And then I spin these facts into a story by adding characters and locations and a plot from my imagination.

But while my characters in this book are fictional, they are all based on real people, Jewish partisans I read about. These people amaze and inspire me.

Keep reading to learn more about the real-life events behind this story, with Max, Zena, Hannah, Martin, Lev, and Mr. Jablonski to guide you.

And then I hope you read more about the partisans on your own. You will be dazzled by their strength and spirit.

Lauren Tarshis

THE RISE OF THE NAZI PARTY

HOW DID A MAN AS EVIL AS ADOLF HITLER BECOME THE LEADER OF GERMANY?

AFTER WORLD WAR I, THE GERMANS WERE POOR AND DESPERATE. MANY FELT HUMILIATED FOR LOSING THE WAR. **ADOLF HITLER** PROMISED TO RESTORE GERMANY TO GREATNESS. THE NAZIS ALSO GAVE PEOPLE SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS, SAYING JEWISH PEOPLE AND OTHER GROUPS WERE TO BLAME. MANY BELIEVED THE NAZIS.

MANY PEOPLE DIDN'T TAKE ADOLF HITLER SERIOUSLY AT FIRST. HE SEEMED ALMOST **RIDICULOUS**.

BEFORE HE BECAME GERMANY'S LEADER, MANY PEOPLE LAUGHED AT HIS LITTLE MUSTACHE.

BUT HITLER WAS A POWERFUL SPEAKER. MANY GERMAN PEOPLE, **HUNGRY FOR CHANGE** AND EAGER FOR SIMPLE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS, PUT THEIR FAITH IN HIM.

NAZI IDEAS WERE **FULL OF HATE**. IN ADDITION TO THE LIES THEY TOLD ABOUT JEWISH PEOPLE, NAZIS SPREAD HATEFUL IDEAS ABOUT CATHOLIC PEOPLE, LGBTQ PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO HAD DIFFERENT POLITICAL VIEWS, AND OTHER GROUPS OF PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT BELIEFS AND BACKGROUNDS.

THE SYMBOL OF HITLER AND THE NAZIS WAS A TWISTED BLACK CROSS CALLED A **SWASTIKA**. EVEN TODAY, THE SWASTIKA IS A SYMBOL OF HATRED, VIOLENCE, AND EVIL.

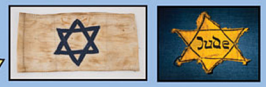
HITLER AND THE NAZIS WANTED GERMANS TO CONQUER EUROPE—AND THE WORLD. GERMAN ARMIES INVADED OTHER COUNTRIES. IN 1939, GERMANY INVADED POLAND. THIS WOULD SOON LEAD TO **WORLD WAR II**.

JEWISH LIFE UNDER HITLER

ABOUT **THREE MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE** LIVED IN POLAND WHEN GERMANY INVADED IN 1939. RIGHT AWAY, GERMAN TROOPS BEGAN TO DESTROY THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE IN POLAND, ESPECIALLY JEWISH PEOPLE.

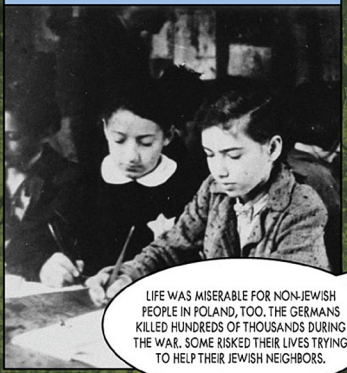
ALL ACROSS POLAND, JEWISH PEOPLE WERE FORCED OUT OF THEIR HOMES. THEY WERE FORCED TO LIVE IN GHETTOS. NEIGHBORHOODS OFTEN CLOSED OFF WITH BARBED WIRE.

JEWISH PEOPLE HAD TO WEAR SPECIAL ARMBANDS OR BADGES SO THE GERMANS COULD TELL THEY WERE JEWISH.



A star of David armband and badge.

SCHOOLS WERE NOT ALLOWED IN THE GHETTOS, BUT THERE WERE SOME ADULTS WHO **RISKED PUNISHMENT** AND TAUGHT CLASSES IN SECRET ANYWAY.



LIFE WAS MISERABLE FOR NON-JEWISH PEOPLE IN POLAND, TOO. THE GERMANS KILLED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DURING THE WAR. SOME RISKED THEIR LIVES TRYING TO HELP THEIR JEWISH NEIGHBORS.

THE GHETTOS WERE CROWDED, AND DISEASES SPREAD EASILY. THE NAZIS MADE SURE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH FOOD OR HEAT. WEAKENED BY HUNGER, COLD, AND ILLNESS, **TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIED** IN THE GHETTOS OF POLAND.

EVENTUALLY, THE GERMANS, UNDER NAZI LEADERS, **MURDERED** MOST JEWISH PEOPLE LIVING IN POLAND AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES DURING WORLD WAR II. MILLIONS WERE SHOT OR SENT TO CAMPS, WHERE THEY WERE KILLED.

OUT OF THE THREE MILLION JEWISH PEOPLE LIVING IN POLAND IN 1939, **ONLY 200,000 SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST.**

JEWISH PARTISAN FIGHTERS

THERE WERE ABOUT **ONE MILLION PARTISAN FIGHTERS** IN WWII. ABOUT 30,000 OF THEM WERE JEWISH. JEWISH FIGHTERS IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE TENDED TO JOIN GROUPS WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS. BUT IN POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION (AN AREA THAT RUSSIA WAS PART OF AT THE TIME), MANY JEWISH PARTISANS FORMED ALL-JEWISH GROUPS.

Bielski partisans

THE LARGEST AND MOST FAMOUS JEWISH PARTISAN GROUP WAS ORGANIZED BY THREE BROTHERS: **TUVIA, ZUS, AND ASAEL BIELSKI**. TOGETHER THEY RESCUED MORE THAN 1,200 JEWISH PEOPLE AND PROTECTED THEM IN LARGE CAMPS HIDDEN IN THE FOREST.

PARTISANS SLEPT IN UNDERGROUND BUNKERS CALLED **ZEMLYANKAS**.

AS MANY AS TWENTY-FIVE PEOPLE COULD SLEEP IN ONE ZEMLYANKA.

MOST PARTISANS ARRIVED IN THE FOREST WITH ONLY THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS. SOME HAD WEAPONS AND HAD ALREADY TRIED STANDING UP TO THE GERMANS IN THE GHETTOS. **MOST HAD LITTLE OR NO SPECIAL TRAINING** AS FIGHTERS. BUT THEY MANAGED TO SPY ON NAZI FORCES, DESTROY THEIR FOOD AND SUPPLIES, AND HELP OTHER JEWISH PEOPLE ESCAPE.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, PARTISANS WORKED TOGETHER TO SURVIVE.

TIMELINE

1933

JANUARY 30	**HITLER** rises to power in Germany through his appointment as Chancellor, the leader of the Government.
APRIL 7	The Nazi government passes a law that **BANS JEWISH PEOPLE** from working for the government. Over the next several years, more laws ban Jewish people from being teachers, doctors, actors, and doing many other jobs.

1934

AUGUST 2	Hitler takes the position of **"FÜHRER,"** which gives him control of the military and allows him to make laws without anyone else's approval.

1935

MARCH 16	Germany reintroduces the **MILITARY DRAFT**. Jewish people are not permitted to join the armed forces, and Jewish soldiers are fired.
SEPTEMBER 15	Nazis pass the **"NUREMBERG RACE LAWS."** Jewish people lose their rights as German citizens. They are also not allowed to marry people who are not Jewish.

1938

	Throughout 1938 and 1939, the Nazi German government passes even more laws that **RESTRICT JEWISH LIFE**. Jewish children are not allowed to attend public school. Jewish business owners must hand their businesses over to non-Jewish people. Jewish people must identify themselves as Jewish on their passports. Jewish people can no longer own radios, bicycles, or many other products.
NOVEMBER 9–10	Mobs of people attack Jewish-owned stores, businesses, and homes in Germany and Austria. 267 synagogues and about 7,500 shops are destroyed. The event becomes known as ***KRISTALLNACHT***, German for "The Night of Broken Glass."

1939

SEPTEMBER 1	Germany invades **POLAND**.
SEPTEMBER 3	France and Great Britain declare war on Germany. **WORLD WAR II** officially begins.
AUTUMN	The Germans begin to establish **GHETTOS** and force Jewish people to move to them. By 1942, there are hundreds of ghettos, including in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Soviet Union.

1940

SPRINGTIME	Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. Every Jewish person in these areas is now in **DANGER**.
SEPTEMBER 27	Japan joins forces with Germany and Italy. Together they become known as the **"AXIS POWERS."**

1941

JUNE 22	Germany invades **THE SOVIET UNION**. The Germans begin killing Jewish people there that same day.
DECEMBER 7	Japanese fighter pilots bomb U.S. military bases at **PEARL HARBOR**, Hawaii. The U.S. declares war on Japan the next day.
DECEMBER 11	The U.S. enters the war against Germany and Italy. The U.S., Great Britain, and the Soviet Union join together. They become known as the **"ALLIED POWERS."**

1942

	The Nazis continue their plan to kill all Jewish people in Europe. The first groups of Polish Jewish people are sent to **CAMPS** designed to kill large numbers of people.
SPRING 1942–SPRING 1944	The **BIELSKI PARTISAN UNIT** sets up hideouts in the forests of Poland and rescues more than 1,200 Jewish people.
JUNE 3–6	The U.S. Navy defeats Japanese forces in the **BATTLE OF MIDWAY**, an island in the Pacific Ocean. This battle marks a turning point in the war between the Allied and Axis Powers.
SEPTEMBER 1	German and Soviet forces clash at the **BATTLE OF STALINGRAD** in Soviet Russia. This conflict—one of the longest and bloodiest in World War II—lasts until February 1943, when the German army surrenders to Soviet troops.

1943

APRIL 19	Nazis and German police try to remove the remaining Jewish people living in the **WARSAW GHETTO** in Poland. Jewish fighters resist and some Germans are killed. The fighting lasts about a month, until Germans destroy the entire ghetto.
SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER	**CITIZENS IN DENMARK** rescue more than 7,000 Danish Jewish people, ferrying them on fishing boats to Sweden.

1944

JUNE 6	Almost 160,000 Allied troops invade Normandy, France on **D-DAY**, a turning point in the war.
JUNE 22–AUGUST 1	**SOVIET SOLDIERS** win battles that free most of central and eastern Poland from Nazi control.

1945

	Allied troops free hundreds of thousands of concentration camp **SURVIVORS**.
APRIL 30	**HITLER** takes his own life.
MAY 7	**GERMANY SURRENDERS**.
AUGUST 6 AND 9	The U.S. drops atomic bombs on **HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI** in Japan.
SEPTEMBER 2	**JAPAN SURRENDERS**. World War II officially ends.

1948

MAY 14	The **NATION OF ISRAEL** is founded.

TO LEARN MORE

For more information about the Jewish partisans, go to: **JewishPartisans.org**

To learn more about the Holocaust, go to the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: **USHMM.org**

MORE I SURVIVED BOOKS SET DURING WORLD WAR II

MORE RECOMMENDED BOOKS ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

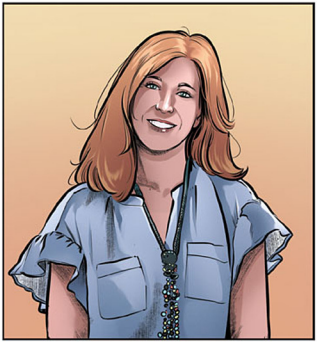
Dauvillier, Loic, *Hidden, a Child's Story of the Holocaust*, New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2014.

Frank, Anne, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, New York: Random House, 1993.

Kerr, Judith, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, New York: Penguin Group, 2009.

Lowry, Lois, *Number the Stars*, New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2011.

Nielsen, Jennifer, *Resistance*, New York: Scholastic Inc., 2018.



LAUREN TARSHIS'S

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING I SURVIVED SERIES TELLS STORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR RESILIENCE AND STRENGTH IN THE MIDST OF UNIMAGINABLE DISASTERS AND TIMES OF TURMOIL. LAUREN HAS BROUGHT HER SIGNATURE WARMTH, INTEGRITY, AND EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH TO TOPICS SUCH AS THE BATTLE OF D-DAY, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, HURRICANE KATRINA, THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, AND OTHER WORLD EVENTS. LAUREN LIVES IN CONNECTICUT WITH HER FAMILY, AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT LAURENTARSHIS.COM.

GEORGIA BALL

HAS WRITTEN COMICS FOR MANY OF HER FAVORITE CHILDHOOD CHARACTERS, INCLUDING STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE, TRANSFORMERS, LITTLEST PET SHOP, MY LITTLE PONY, AND THE DISNEY PRINCESSES. IN ADDITION TO ADAPTING LAUREN TARSHIS'S I SURVIVED SERIES TO GRAPHIC NOVELS, GEORGIA WRITES ABOUT HISTORICAL EVENTS SUCH AS THE WORLD WAR II BATTLES OF KURSK AND GUADALCANAL. GEORGIA LIVES WITH HER HUSBAND, DAUGHTER, AND RAMBUNCTIOUS PETS IN FLORIDA. VISIT HER ONLINE AT GEORGIABALLAUTHOR.COM.

ÁLVARO SARRASECA

HAS WORKED AS A MAGAZINE CARTOONIST AND GRAPHIC NOVEL ARTIST. HE HAS CONTRIBUTED ARTWORK TO FRANCHISES SUCH AS DRAGON AGE, JURASSIC WORLD, AND RED SONJA AND VAMPIRELLA MEET BETTY AND VERONICA, AMONG OTHERS. HE LIVES IN MADRID, SPAIN, AND CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT ALVAROSARRASECA.DAPORTFOLIO.COM.

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